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Times poll shows Tory leader's poor image

Hague fights to save his political life

By PHILIP WEBSTER, ROLAND WATSON, ANDREW PIERCE AND PETER RIDDELL

WILLIAM HAGUE battled for his political life last night by delivering a pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance. Struggling to contain the crisis that has hit his leadership and confronted by a MORI poll showing support for the party and its leader were slipping still further, Mr Hague faced all of his MPs and promised to consult them more.

And he moved again to appease the Right and silence rumblings about his position in a speech last night when he denied that his efforts to improve the party's image on health and education meant that it was abandoning Baroness Thatcher — "one of its truly great leaders" — or the free market — "its great source of inspiration".

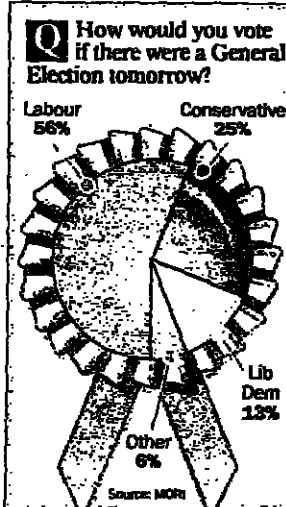
But he refused to retreat from his attempt to kill the notion that the Tories favour the privatisation of the health and education services, emphasising the limits to private sector solutions to their problems. The appearance before the 1922 Committee was a gamble and he finally decided to go ahead with it only an hour before the meeting started — his Shadow Cabinet having closed ranks behind him.

He delivered a short speech, conceding that the events of the past eight days could have been better handled and promising to listen to them more. According to his aides, he received the biggest cheer when he told them that their purpose was to return to power and "not to have theological arguments about every point of policy".

He declared that despite the "worries, criticisms and misapprehensions" that he had encountered, he would not be deterred from making his commitment to the public services plain. "I will go through any number of arguments, take on anyone in debate, endure any criticism, do whatever it takes to get across this position on health and education that is true to the instincts and principles of our party."

The appearance at the 1922 Committee came after Mr Hague had been warned by his Chief Whip James Arbuthnot that the parliamentary party was in a state of revolt. Senior backbenchers had said that feeling was running so high against the strategy unleashed by Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, that they would have little difficulty collecting the 24 signatures needed to trigger a vote of confidence in Mr Hague's leadership.

At the backbenchers' meeting, Mr Hague gave the strong avowal of support for Margaret Thatcher that he was to repeat later at a London fund-raising dinner. He declared that he had joined

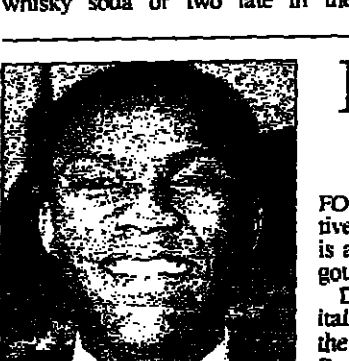


William Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image — particularly among Tories, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, the latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows. Mr Hague's personal rating has dropped from minus 26 to minus 31, and among Tories it now stands at minus 26, which means that twice as many disapprove of his leadership as approve. Page 2



the Conservative Party because of Margaret Thatcher and was proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her election victory. He had always believed passionately that the free market was essential to ensuring freedom, prosperity and personal responsibility. But it was not the policy of the Thatcher Government to extend the free market to every aspect of national life.

"If the criticism is that we are turning our backs on Margaret Thatcher and the free market, I say that we will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be proud of the free market," he said. "I don't think the hunt is conscious of the colour of my skin."



Derek Laud: first in the field

ways be champions of the free market. But we also believe, as previous Conservative governments have, that schools and hospitals paid for by all taxpayers should be available to everyone in the country."

Mr Hague's critics on the backbenches were in full cry, complaining at the muddle in the party's message and the desperately poor timing of Mr Lilley's attempt to change public perceptions of the party. Mr Lilley himself came in for huge criticism from senior backbenchers, many saying that he was out of touch and complaining about the slow pace and lack of imagination in his policy review.

The Shadow Cabinet has voiced deep unhappiness at the way the Lilley plan was executed and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, has privately distanced himself from the Lilley speech.

Mr Maude, a member of the Conservative Central Office strategy group which backed the campaign to try to change the Tories image on the health service, complained directly to Mr Hague about the failed execution of the plan.

Francis is loyal and keeps his views private. But there is no doubt he was deeply unhappy with the spin which was put on the speech by Central Office, one aide said. "The last thing he wanted for us was to apologise for something we had not done wrong. There is a growing consensus that the Lilley speech was badly handled, not just in the lack of consultation, but in the way it was written. It was careless, not least in what it omitted. Francis shares the views of most people in the party that this went badly wrong. We do have to slay the dragon over the NHS. But not the way Lilley chose to do it."

The Maude camp is still clinging to the hope the row will still help the Tories on the doorstep by reinforcing the view that they will defend the NHS.

A mood of deep despondency pervaded party headquarters yesterday. An inquest was held at the early morning strategy meeting over the revelations in *The Times* about the sacking of Michael Simmonds, the director of research and marketing, who was accused of leaking the first draft of Mr Lilley's speech, which went much further in denouncing Thatcherite ideology.

Mr Arbuthnot was livid that his description of the crisis gripping the parliamentary party had been leaked to *The Times* and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, made an implicit threat that anyone caught talking out of turn to the press would be sacked on the spot.

Blame Basildon, page 14
Leading article, page 23

Thatcher's 'anecdote'

A SAD picture of the retired Margaret Thatcher, including allegations that she drank too much, is painted by the former Conservative minister George Walden today.

In his memoirs, being serialised in *The Times*, Mr Walden says that "the most vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister in decades" had reached a "premature anecdote". He says that Margaret Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well. "She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the

evening after her umpteenth-hour day: now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There was no arguing with her anymore; in fact it was impossible to talk to her."

Mr Walden adds: "The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she did not know she was doing it."

The Walden memoirs, page 21



Alan Farthing speaking about his fiancée, Jill Dando, who was murdered on Monday. He appealed for anyone with any information or suspicions to contact the police

'I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well meaning and as perfect a person as Jill'

The fiancé of Jill Dando spoke of his incomprehension and grief yesterday as the search for her killer made slow progress.

Alan Farthing, who was planning to marry the television presenter later this year, said that he could think of no reason for the murder of such a "beautiful, caring and well-meaning" person.

The investigation has been hampered by a delay in issuing pictures of the suspect. Scotland Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who got a good view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-fit.

Miss Dando had recently sold her house, in Fulham, west London, it emerged, and planned to move in with Mr Farthing. The buyers spoke of their sadness last night.

Farthing speaks, page 5
Dr Stuttaford, page 20
Mick Hume, page 22
Radio, page 39

Belgrade riven as dissenter is sacked

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

VUK DRASKOVIC, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister yesterday.

The move came a few days after he had publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government in Belgrade to stop lying about the country's deteriorating economy after weeks of Nato bombing.

Nato said that the dismissal was a sign of Mr Milosevic's increasing isolation and "the first visible fracture" in the Yugoslav leadership. Mr Draskovic had paid the price of speaking the truth, a Nato official said.

Mr Draskovic said yesterday: "I don't know what precipitated my removal. I haven't spoken to Milosevic." Nato admitted yesterday that a laser-guided bomb had "gone astray" over the town of Surdulica in southern Serbia, hitting a residential area instead of a military barracks. The Yugoslav authorities said that up to 20 civilians had been killed, including six children.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that he regretted the civilian deaths. Later Tony Blair repeated to the Commons that Nato took every possible precaution to avoid civilian casualties.

As Nato's air campaign went into its

sixth week, efforts to find a peace settlement continued, with more meetings in Moscow. However, Strobe Talbott, the American Deputy Secretary of State, on a visit to Berlin after going to Moscow, said that there was nothing to indicate that Mr Milosevic was closer to accepting Nato's five demands.

In Berlin, Mr Talbott met Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, before he flew to Moscow where he will see President Yeltsin tomorrow.

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day. As part of an intensification of diplomatic efforts to end the Kosovo crisis, Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, was also in Moscow yesterday, meeting Russian leaders.

He said yesterday: "There are elements that increase the hope of a political solution slightly, though one should not overstate them."

However, Goran Matic, a senior Yugoslav official, was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying that the basic outline of an agreement on Kosovo could be "firmed up" this week.

Fox-hunting black joins the masters

By TIM REID

FOR ONE of the nation's most conservative, white, male-dominated pursuits, it is almost a revolution. Britain has just got its first black master of foxhounds. Derek Laud, 39, a London venture capitalist, has been elected joint master of the prestigious, 210-year-old New Forest Foxhounds, a post he takes up on May 1. "I don't think the hunt is conscious of

the colour of my skin," Mr Laud told *The Times* last night. "But we don't want to put distance between us and anyone that wants to participate in this sport. It doesn't matter if they are a woman or a man, gay or straight."

John Moore, chairman of the hunt club, said: "His colour has nothing to do with it. He's just a bloody nice bloke. He's a good rider, popular, and kind to other members of the hunt."

Mr Laud, who traces his roots to Jamaica, was once challenged on his horse by an anti-hunt saboteur on the grounds that 100 years ago similar people would have been hunting him. "Yes," he countered, "but 200 years ago I would have been eating them."

Mr Laud came to prominence in the early 1990s as the first — and to date only — black member of the right-wing Monday Club.

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Hapless pawn aught unawares in midst of a bigger game

LET us be fair to Charlotte Atkins: Prime Minister's Questions always did rollercoaster between the sublime and the ridiculous.

There is nothing new in the sight of MPs clutching their stomachs as the House makes a sickening lurch from a humanitarian catastrophe in Albania to an outbreak of cat flu in Bolton. Members may raise what they please; and do. The result is an eclectic mix of domestic bees in local bonnets, with questions on the destiny of mankind.

So for Ms Atkins it was more bad luck than bad judgment that her question on the status of chess immediately followed an impassioned outburst from the Prime Minister on the horrors of Kosovo. That Balkan exchange, like those that followed, had been delivered to a resolute House. I reported last week that the Commons barometer had moved to "unsettled". Yesterday it inched back towards a stable high pressure. William Hague (poor thing) sounded rather bleak — just

go through the motions. Not unexpected moved off-stage. But Ms Atkins temporarily lost the plot. The Labour MP for Staffordshire Moorlands is neither obsessive nor a fool. And there is no reason why she should not raise, at this higher of levels, the grievance of chess players that their game is not recognised as a sport.

Nor could she choose her moment when to speak: MPs who want to intervene have to start leaping up from the very



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

outset, to catch the Chair's attention. Ms Atkins did. Disaster! She succeeded too early: immediately after Mr Hague had been cross-questioning Tony Blair about the conflict in the Balkans. Mr Blair had worked himself into particular outrage at Serbian atrocities. Steam was still coming from his ears.

This was not the moment for chess. But, as Miss Atkins called her name, it was too late for Ms Atkins to correct a new question on the rape of Albania. She ploughed through her protest against the perception of chess players.

MPs' brows crowded. People began sniggering and

showing their heads. Front-benchers looked uncomfortable. After too long, Ms Atkins sat down: a loyal new Labourite who had asked a fair question, but with unlucky timing.

It was instructive to note the ruthlessness with which Mr Blair let her swing. The Labour Whips' Office now tries to select who will intervene, and to orchestrate questions, so this sketch would be surprised if she had given no notice of what she hoped to raise — but it is possible.

In any event, whether or

not Mr Blair could have dealt with her question, he chose to make light of it. In mock-exasperation he protested — in effect — that prime ministers do get rogue cocommunicants like this thrown at them, and simply have to duck.

Rather wittily he remarked that he was looking in vain along his front bench for help. Everyone laughed: laughed with him, and at Ms Atkins, who looked a bit wretched.

The effect was to play to the mood of the House, joining

others in grinning at the inappropriateness of Charlotte Atkins's question. Most journalists will admire the skill and light touch with which Mr Blair extracted himself unscathed from a potentially awkward exchange.

But this sketchwriter, who has been a backbencher, felt for Ms Atkins. Somewhere in her half-consciousness a tiny arrow has now lodged. In a phrase of Thornton Wilder's, "wrapped in layers of forgiveness and understanding, it sank into her heart".

ADAM BULLER

Relaunch of Hague fails with voters

SUPPORT for William Hague has dropped sharply among Tory supporters, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. This is a further blow to Mr Hague as he tries to assert his authority.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the Tories have fallen even further behind Labour ahead of the local, Scottish and Welsh elections next Thursday. Moreover, Mr Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image, particularly among Tory supporters.

Labour is now at the top end of its post-election range at 56 per cent, up two points since late March, while the Tories have fallen back two points over the month to 25 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 13 per cent.

Mr Hague's personal rating has deteriorated despite the attempts to relaunch his image, and may reflect the initial impact of the Tory row over Peter Lilley's speech last week on public spending. His approval rating, measuring those satisfied less dissatisfied with his performance as party leader, has fallen from minus 26 to minus 31 points, the lowest level since last September.

Even more worrying for Mr

Poll shows that even many Tories prefer Blair, writes Peter Riddell

Hague is that his rating among Tory supporters is almost as bad. This figure has fluctuated sharply in recent months, but by a margin of nearly two-to-one (56 to 30 per cent), Tory supporters are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

Over the last few months, his approval rating among Tories has been minus 15, minus 4, minus 27, minus 3 and, now, minus 26 points.

MORI this month asked a series of questions about the image of the party leaders. On each of the 14 measures, Mr Hague not only lags well behind Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, but also shows no sign of improvement compared with when he became Tory leader nearly two years ago. For instance Mr Hague's rating as a capable leader has remained stuck at 10 per cent since autumn 1997, compared

with 51 per cent who rate Mr Blair as capable. Similarly, an unchanged nine per cent believe Mr Hague understands world problems, against 38 per cent who believe Mr Blair does.

Moreover, on nine of the 14 measures, Tory supporters rate Mr Blair more highly than their own leader, Mr Hague. For instance, 39 per cent of Tories regard Mr Blair as a capable leader, but only 17 per cent have the same view of Mr Hague. The contrast, among Tory supporters, is 21 to 5 per cent between the leaders on being good in a crisis, and 33 to 7 per cent on having a lot of personality.

By contrast, Mr Blair's rating remains very strong and has probably been helped by his handling of Kosovo. His rating, satisfied less dissatisfied, has risen from plus 32 to plus 35 points in the past month, to the highest level since August 1998.

□ MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,966 adults at 162 sampling points across Britain on April 23 to 26. Voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), who are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).

Leading article, page 23



The Prince of Wales is shown at a host for the homeless in Victoria, London. As part of the Prince's backing for initiatives involving the homeless, tailored suits are to be given to those attending job interviews (Alexandra Fearn writes). Business leaders have pledged to help the Prince's project, Business Action on Homelessness, after he persuaded them to go on "seeing is believing" tours of

Prince's makeover on homeless

hostels and day centres. Most of the 70 managing directors and chief executives who took part promised immediate help. David Fellows, deputy managing director of Aquascutum, said he would donate suits and other clothing to the Crisis charity for homeless people attending job interviews.

Andrew Robertson, managing di-

rector of Abbott Meade Vickers advertising agency, said that his company's contribution would be to buy or build a "halfway house" with accommodation for up to ten. He said the property, to be called The Big House, will help people moving to their own flats to get used to having a home again.

Business Action on Homelessness

is a joint venture between the Prince's charity, Business in the Community, and the housing charity Crisis, and is chaired by John Studdinski, managing director of the investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

At a meeting of 50 senior business leaders in St James's Palace, London, yesterday, Mr Studdinski said that relieving homelessness was one of the most tangible ways in which organisations could "play the good shepherd".

LAURA ASHLEY

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Food giant to phase out GM ingredients

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

NESTLÉ, one of Britain's biggest food manufacturers, last night announced plans to phase out genetically modified ingredients, including flours, oils and additives, from its British product range.

The company's move comes a day after Unilever, the food manufacturing giant, announced its intention to remove genetically modified organisms from its products in Britain. Nestlé said that its decision came after a sharp fall in consumer confidence.

Nestlé, which owns British companies including Rowntree, Nescafé, Carnation Milk and Cross & Blackwell, said that it had already reformulated recipes or phased out material from genetically modified crops from many products.

A spokeswoman said they now had only three products labelled as containing genetically modified ingredients — all Cross & Blackwell sandwiches. These are to have their genetically modified ingredients removed.

She added that the company was now tackling the tougher issue of sourcing soy and soy derivatives, such as oils, flours and lecithin used in chocolate, from conventionally grown crops. The main sources are Brazil and Canada. But

campaigners believe that, given the market muscle of Nestlé, Unilever and supermarkets such as Sainsbury, grocers in the United States may now look to switch back to traditional soy varieties.

"For a transitional period, some Nestlé UK products may continue to contain low levels of highly refined ingredients which, while they may have come from GM crops, have been purified to such an extent that the finished product no longer contains any GM material," the company said.

But it added in a statement that its new policy was to source even these refined ingredients from conventional varieties of soy and maize. "We will endeavour to purchase ingredients from non-GM sources."

Nestlé could not put a date on when all its 250 lines would be sourced from conventional crops, but it is working with suppliers to achieve that as soon as possible.

Lord Melchett, speaking for Greenpeace, said that those who still supported GM crops and foods were driven by "religious zeal" rather than common sense, adding: "If Tony Blair and Jack Cunningham felt exposed after Unilever's announcement, they must be feeling positively silly now."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Car chase pair face 16 fresh charges

Two men arrested after a high-speed car chase in which shots were fired and passers-by wounded faced 16 new charges of attempted murder when they appeared before magistrates in Manchester yesterday.

Yakub Olatunde Adetoro, 29, of no fixed address, now faces a total of 23 charges of attempting to murder police and members of the public during the incident, which ended in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, last Friday. Andrew Dennis, 23, of Medlock Road, Fallowfield, Oldham, faces a total of 22 attempted murder charges. They were also charged with kidnapping a 27-year-old married woman in Bolton. No bail applications were made.

MP 'entitled to return'

Fiona Jones, the disqualified Labour MP whose conviction for electoral fraud was quashed on appeal, should be allowed to resume her seat in the interests of natural justice and those who voted for her, the High Court was told. "Where an MP... is convicted at first instance but succeeds on appeal, their incapacity to sit as an MP is removed," said Philip Sales, for the Attorney-General. The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

Call to snub Sinn Fein

The bipartisan consensus on Northern Ireland was further fractured when the Tories called for the establishment of an executive without Sinn Fein (Martin Fletcher writes). The Government rejected a demand by Andrew Mackay, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, that Sinn Fein should join only when the IRA had disbanded. Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, said that would remove "the one bit of leverage I have".

Health cases checked

The records of 800 patients of an ear, nose and throat consultant are to be reviewed after an inquiry into his competence (Simon de Bruxelles writes). Colleagues had expressed concern about the work of Julian Upton, 62, who retired from Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, Somerset, last month on health grounds. Consultants called in to review 21 of his cases recommended that the treatment of another 790 patients should be looked at.

Trade war looms over ban on US beef

By Carl Mortished, Charles Bremner and Ben Macintyre

EUROPE is heading for a new trade war with the United States after a committee of veterinary scientists in Brussels decided to ban all imports of US beef into Europe by June 15 unless the meat is proved to be free of artificial hormones.

The ban caused anger among US trade officials who suggested it belied a "tit-for-tat" attitude on the part of the EU. Washington is already threatening action over an existing European ban on imports of

hormone-treated beef which the World Trade Organisation has declared illegal.

The decision to ban all beef originating from the US will affect some £12 million of US exports, including £3.8 million of US beef sold to Britain. Tests by European scientists on beef sold as hormone-free revealed that 12 per cent of the samples contained residues of artificial growth hormones, alleged to be carcinogenic.

The US rejects the claims of health risk and has published a list of \$900 million worth of European exports, including Roquefort, foie gras and motorcycles,

which will be liable to 100 per cent duties if Brussels fails to lift its ban by May 15.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said Europe was acting to protect consumer health and was ready to work with US authorities to resolve the problem. However, Britain voted against the move when it was initiated yesterday by the EU's standing veterinary committee.

A British spokeswoman said: "We consider the EU move to be disproportionate. There is clearly a problem with US control measures and we expect them to be addressed as soon as possible."

Marine massacre

Police question four f
killers, reports Giles

THE police are questioning four men in connection with the shooting of a woman and her child in a car park in Manchester last night. The woman, 34, was killed and the child, 10, was injured. The men, who are in their late 20s and early 30s, are being held on suspicion of murder and carrying a dangerous weapon. The police are also looking for a fourth man who was seen running away from the scene. The incident occurred at about 11.30pm on Wednesday night. The woman was identified as Sarah Jane Smith, and the child as James Smith. The police are appealing for witnesses and anyone who has information about the case should contact them on 0161 275 2222.

Patched-1

By Mervyn O'Connell

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in the world — apart from us", announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their future.

The band, which slimmed down from five to a quartet when the guitarist, Nick McCabe, left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the band did not come without a great deal of discussion to me personally."

"I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it impossible."

The working-class boys from Wigan named up his including Bitter Sweet

Tycoon 'hired killer in custody fight'

**Court told
hitman was
paid £20,000
to murder
wife, reports
Richard Duce**

A MILLIONAIRE paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday.

Derek Goldsmith, who made a fortune from his Aqualisa shower company, was said to have embarked on a "calculated and wicked" plot to have Diana Goldsmith killed because he wanted care of their son and daughter. The 44-year-old woman — she took his name although they never married — had been abducted from her home by two men in January 1995 and murdered soon afterwards. Her body was not found for two years, when it was discovered buried in the back garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London.

Andrew Patience, QC, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Goldsmith, 62, refused to accept the ruling by a High Court judge that custody of his son, aged seven, and 12-year-old daughter should remain with their mother when the couple separated after 12 years. "He never came to terms with it. Derek Goldsmith's determination to have these children under his care and control has led him ultimately to the dock where he now stands trial."

Mr Patience said: "The defendant badly wanted the care and control of his children. That desire was thwarted by the decision of the High Court which he could not accept. It is for that reason he entered into a calculated and wicked plan to get the children back, although it meant they would be deprived of their mother for ever."

He said the prosecution did not claim that Mr Goldsmith had killed Diana Goldsmith himself. "He was careful to keep his distance. Rather we say that by giving final instructions... he counselled and procured her death."

Mr Patience said the murder plot took shape after Mr Goldsmith confided in Michael Fitzpatrick, his son-in-law by a previous marriage, who he had helped to set up in a scrap metal business in South London. "He spoke of



Diana being an unfit mother and how he would get his children back some day. It was like an obsession with him," Mr Patience said.

Their friendship had taken a darker and "sinister" twist when Mr Goldsmith had asked Fitzpatrick if he knew of "anyone who could get rid of Diana, that is to say kill her".

Fitzpatrick, who has admitted a conspiracy to murder, is a key prosecution witness. It was he who put Mr Goldsmith in touch with the hitman, Ian Colligan. Mr Patience said that under instructions from Mr Goldsmith, Colligan and Fitzpatrick burgled Mrs Goldsmith's home in Sevenoaks, Kent, to copy a set of her keys. The plan had been to return later and lie in wait for her.

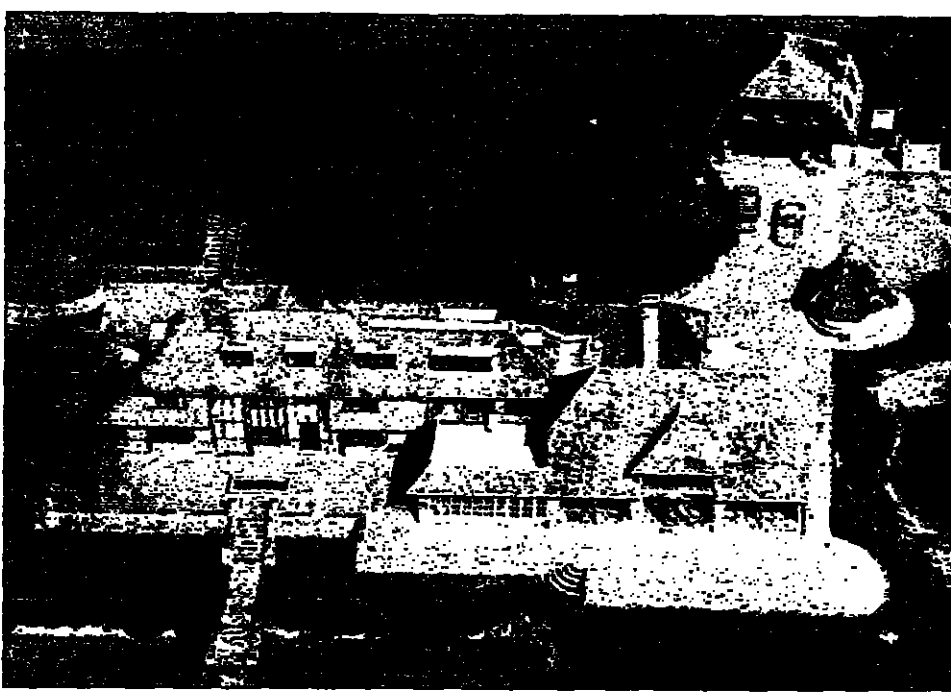
Colligan had reported back to Fitzpatrick that Mr Goldsmith had handed him £20,000 at a Little Chef on the

A21 road to Hastings. But by now, Mr Patience said, Fitzpatrick had got cold feet and urged Colligan "not to do the job and keep the money".

Instead, Colligan had recruited his friend Michael Danaher with the offer of £1,500, and the two men had let themselves in to Mrs Goldsmith's house. She had returned home having dropped off her son at his school.

Mr Patience told the jury: "Colligan overpowered her. She was assured no harm would come to her and she was given a cup of coffee and a cigarette to calm her down. Her hands were secured with plastic ties." Mrs Goldsmith had then been driven away in her own Volvo car, which had later been found abandoned at the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex. She was never seen alive again.

Mr Patience said that Colligan then told Fitzpatrick that



The prosecution claims that Diana Goldsmith was kidnapped from her house in Sevenoaks, below, on the orders of her partner Derek Goldsmith, right, who lived in Edenbridge, above, and was put in touch with the hitman by Michael Fitzpatrick, below



he would not dispose of the body unless he was paid a further £20,000 by Mr Goldsmith. The millionaire had handed over a further £6,000. In the meantime, Fitzpatrick had asked a friend if he could bury 50 kilos of cannabis in his back garden. While the friend was out, Fitzpatrick had buried the body.

Mr Patience said that days before he was arrested last year, Mr Goldsmith, who by now had custody of his children, had ordered a book near his home in Edenbridge, Kent, entitled *When Father Kills Mother — guiding children through trauma and grief*.

Danaher admitted a kidnapping charge in June 1996 and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court. Colligan committed suicide while on remand in prison. Mr Goldsmith denies conspiring to murder his wife.

The trial continues.

Marines rejected school massacre mastermind

**Police question four friends of
killers, reports Giles Whittell**

ERIC HARRIS, who masterminded the school shooting in Colorado in which 15 people died last week, was taking medication for a psychiatric condition and had been rejected by the US Marines five days before.

According to military sources, Harris had done well in an early interview for the Marines but had been turned down on medical grounds. "The system worked," a Marine Corps spokesman said. But the young man it weeded out then went on a rampage, the impact of which is still being felt more than a week later. As crowds packed two more funerals for victims of Harris and his partner, Dylan Klebold, police confirmed that three more young men and a woman could still become suspects.

The men being questioned, all with links to the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia, have been named as Matthew Christian, Matt Akard and Jim Bran-

etti. They were spotted near the school wearing combat fatigues and black shirts during the shootings, taken into custody and released.

One told the *Rocky Mountain News* that they had been watching because they were "just three punks with a lot of curiosity". Police suspect they may have known about the massacre in advance because, as Sheriff John Stone noted on Tuesday: "They said they heard it on the radio... but it wasn't on the radio then."

The woman helping detectives, 18-year-old Robyn Anderson, was Klebold's girlfriend. She went to the school prom with him three days before the killings and is known to have bought the two shotguns used by him and Harris. Questioned and released on Tuesday, she was still co-operating with police yesterday.

A national debate on who to blame for the carnage may find the answer in the courts. Geof-



Anderson: bought two guns used in the killings

frey Feiger, a nationally-known defence lawyer who made his name representing Dr Jack Kervorkian, the advocate of assisted suicide, has been approached twice by the family of the sole black victim, Isaiah Shoels. His father is considering a lawsuit because police and school officials allegedly ignored repeated warnings about threats of violence from Harris and Klebold, and on the ground that their parents ig-

nored clear signs of an arms build-up in their own homes.

"How would they not know they had bomb factories in their houses?" Michael Schwartz, Mr Feiger's law partner, asked as police raised the number of bombs found at the school to 51.

New information released on Tuesday hinted for the first time that Harris and Klebold may have considered suicide only as a last resort. Harris's diary contained mention of escaping to Mexico. Sheriff Stone said. Detectives also believe the gunmen made three attempts to flee the building before shooting themselves.

As the investigation continued, President Clinton made an impassioned plea for new gun control measures. He asked "everybody who is waiting for the next deer season in my home state to think about this in terms of what our reasonable obligations to the larger community of America are".

The Duchess of York joined mourners in Littleton, saying that it reminded her of Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Patched-up Verve split again

By Alex O'Connell

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in the world — apart from us", announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their future.

The band, which slumped down from five to a quartet when the guitarist Nick McCabe left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the band did not come without a great deal of distress to me personally."

"I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it impossible."

The working-class boys from Wigan notched up hits including *Bitter Sweet*



The five members of The Verve before they parted company

Symphony and their first No 1, *The Drugs Don't Work*.

This is not the first time the band has split. In 1995 McCabe and Ashcroft fell out over the singer's hedonistic lifestyle and McCabe did not speak to any of

The Verve for 18 months. Ashcroft, known as "Mad Richard" at the time, because of his appetite for drugs, reportedly begged McCabe to come back. Later he wrote *The Drugs Don't Work* about the circumstances surrounding the split. But although McCabe was reported to have patched up differences with the group, he did not perform or record with them again.

In January Ashcroft held a party at his mansion in Gloucestershire without inviting the other band members. The previous month Ashcroft and McCabe had been snubbed when they found out through friends about the wedding of the guitarist Simon Tong.

Recently it emerged that Ashcroft had been recording in a South London studio, followed by rumours of a solo project.



Office may spark new battle of Newbury

A TOWN which saw one of the fiercest environmental battles of recent years was yesterday facing another upheaval after Vodafone gained approval to build its world headquarters on a green site.

Campaigners who failed to prevent Newbury getting its controversial bypass have said they will return to the fray against the telecommunications giant.

They denounced Vodafone after the company threatened to relocate its 3,500-strong workforce if the plan was rejected. In the end, West Berkshire Council rejected advice from planning officers that the headquarters would generate demand for thousands more houses and approved the plans early yesterday after a 6½-hour debate.

Vodafone's £60 million headquarters will cover 30 acres north of the town centre. Within five years it will employ staff from 36 of the 57 buildings which the company currently uses across the Berkshire market town.

Friends of the Earth accused the company of holding a gun to the council's head. Adrian Foster-Fletcher, a spokesman, said: "For a company that makes £3 million per day, they have behaved like an Arthur Daley backstreet garage. The council will be powerless to stop 3,000 houses being dumped in the area."

However, as with the controversial bypass, the people of Newbury seem largely in favour of Vodafone's scheme. An

Environmentalists threaten a siege over approval for Vodafone centre, writes Helen Johnstone

independent survey showed that of 1,559 people asked, only 96 were against.

The company, which has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to local charities since moving to Newbury in 1983, was sensitive to the charge it might be buying votes. At the eleventh hour, it rejected a council demand that it donate £5 million to a housing association.

The company said yesterday: "Vodafone saw it as buying the application. The council would have had the

problem anyway. We confirmed in a letter early yesterday that if the condition remained we would pull out."

The council voted by 23 to 22, with one abstention, to drop the condition. Councilors then went on to vote by 25 to 18 in favour of the headquarters, along with around 2,000 parking spaces on former agricultural land.

Jim Sherry, the council's head of planning and transport strategy, gave a warning that more green sites were now under threat. "We have

very few brownfield sites, so most of the new houses will have to go on greenfield sites."

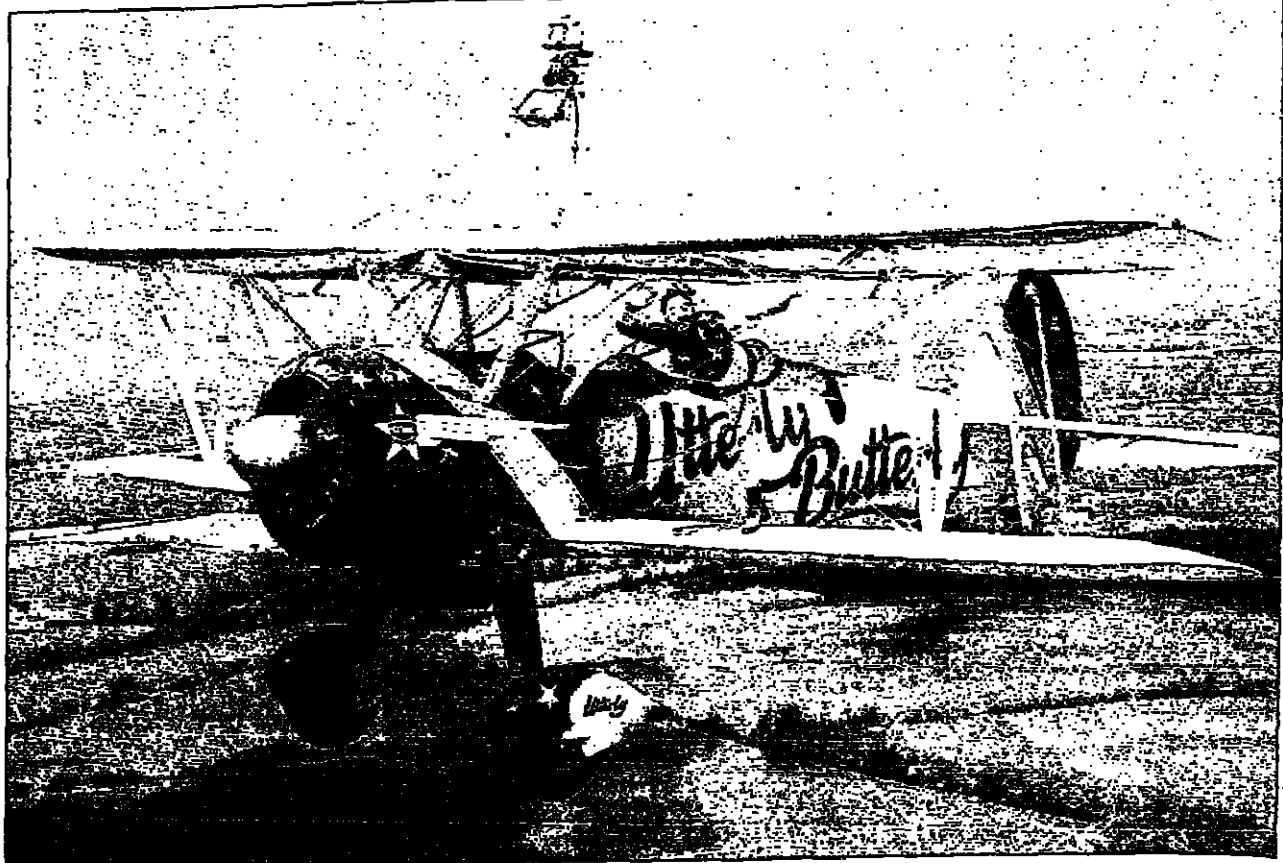
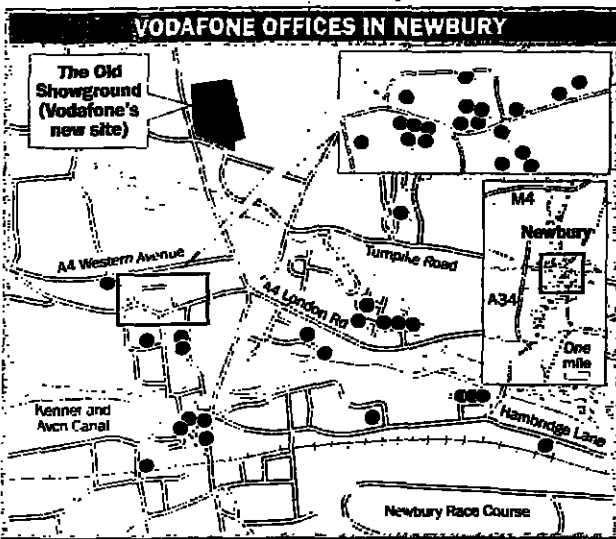
Planners had said that up to 3,900 new jobs could be created. Their report recommending refusal had said that this would result in a significant increase in commuting to the town and further pressure on housing.

Friends of the Earth, which argued that Vodafone could move 20 miles down the M4 to Reading, where houses were already available and a bus service planned, is calling for a public inquiry.

Mr Foster-Fletcher said: "Planning officers and the planning committee recommended refusal. About 300 people who demonstrated last week in favour of the proposals were Vodafone employees. Pressure must be put on the council to take a proper view of this application."

Mike Caldwell, the Vodafone spokesman, said that staying in Newbury would prevent workers clocking up 30 million extra road miles a year. "If we had moved to Reading, a vast majority of our staff would have stayed living in the Newbury area and used their cars to drive to work. Residents yesterday expressed delight. Vodafone signs are already everywhere you look, so it will be good to see the bulk of them moving out of the town," said Jim Dodwell, a retired publisher.

Sue Bruce, a secretary, said: "The move will be gradual, over three to five years."



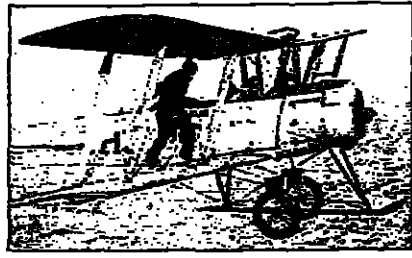
Helen Tempest in her Boeing Stearman biplane after re-enacting a wing-walking feat banned since the 1930s

Walker with a wing and a prayer

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT MIGHT play havoc with a girl's hairdo, but that was the least of Helen Tempest's worries yesterday as she performed a wing-walking stunt so dangerous it has been banned since the 1930s.

As her Boeing Stearman biplane roared 100ft above a Gloucestershire airfield, the 33-year-old professional daredevil climbed out of the cockpit and on to the lower wing. Battered by the 100mph slipstream, she stepped gingerly from spar to spar, knowing that one false step and her foot would go straight through the thin fabric skin. If that happened, not even the safety harness she wears would have been able to stop her



The last legal wing-walk, in 1930s

or the 50-year-old plane plummeting to the ground.

After spending ten minutes walking to the middle of the 33ft-long wing and back again, she said: "That was truly

amazing. It made me feel like Superwoman. When you step out you are overwhelmed by the force of the air behind the propeller. You can barely breathe." She added that it was "incredible fun".

Miss Tempest, who has been wing-walking since the age of 15, is a member of the Utterly Butterly Barnstormers, who perform at airshows across Europe and are the first team to be granted permission to perform the stunt since wing-walking was banned by the Civil Aviation Authority in 1933 because of the large number of fatalities.

Wing-walking began in the 1920s when World War One pilots tried to find ways of earning a living after returning to civilian life.

Aid for disabled on the menu

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WATERS will be required to read out menus to people with visual impairments under government guidelines issued this week.

Shopkeepers will have to open their door for customers who cannot easily manage it themselves, and owners of small shops who cannot afford to build a ramp or widen doorways will be required to serve customers who use wheelchairs on the pavement.

The advice is part of the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into force on October 1. It is designed to guarantee disabled people the right of access to all goods and services on the high street.

The guidance is designed to placate owners of small businesses who are concerned that the new legislation will involve building alterations to their premises and other costly adjustments to the way they work. Instead of building new

display units that are accessible to wheelchair users or people with restricted movement, storekeepers will be advised to retrieve items from inaccessible shelves.

Businesses that cannot afford to install an induction loop or hire a sign language interpreter will be required to write down information for people who have hearing impairments. Similarly, solicitors and providers of other professional services will be able to produce documents on tape or in large print for clients with visual impairments. Instead of having to have them printed in Braille.

Announcing the regulations in the Commons, Margaret Hodge, minister for disabled people, said she hoped the new legislation would lead to "a high street revolution" in the way that services are delivered.



Partridge: obnoxious but fictional, says the BBC

Warning: this man is no role model

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC was forced to spell out yesterday that Alan Partridge, the obnoxious, offensive, homophobic sexist fictional chat show host, was not a suitable role model for viewers.

Executives published a lengthy explanation distancing themselves from the behaviour of the star of the BBC2 comedy series *I'm Alan Partridge* after being reprimanded by broadcasting watchdogs.

The Broadcasting Standards Commission upheld complaints that a repeat episode of the show, starring the comedian Steve Coogan as a fading chat-show host, was offensive to the disabled.

Partridge mocked a character who had undergone an operation to remove his vocal cords and spouting an electronic gadget. He asked the man why he spoke so strangely and told him he sounded "like the young girl in *The Exorcist*".

After being told by the commission that humour at the expense of someone who had undergone a laryngectomy exceeded acceptable boundaries, the BBC said that it had had no intention to ridicule sufferers.

The central character in the series was a fading media star whose most distinctive feature was his crass insensitivity, it said in its submission to the commission. "He unashamedly alienated or offended most of the people he met, while remaining unaware that he was the object of the humour rather than those on the receiving end of his tasteless jokes."

The spokesman explained that the behaviour of Partridge — who is reduced in his latest series to presenting the 4.30am show on Radio Norwich and living in a Travel Tavern — had put his career and personal life on a "remorseless slide".

The BBC added that he was "clearly not intended to be a role model" and "his boorish and prejudiced behaviour should be seen in that light".

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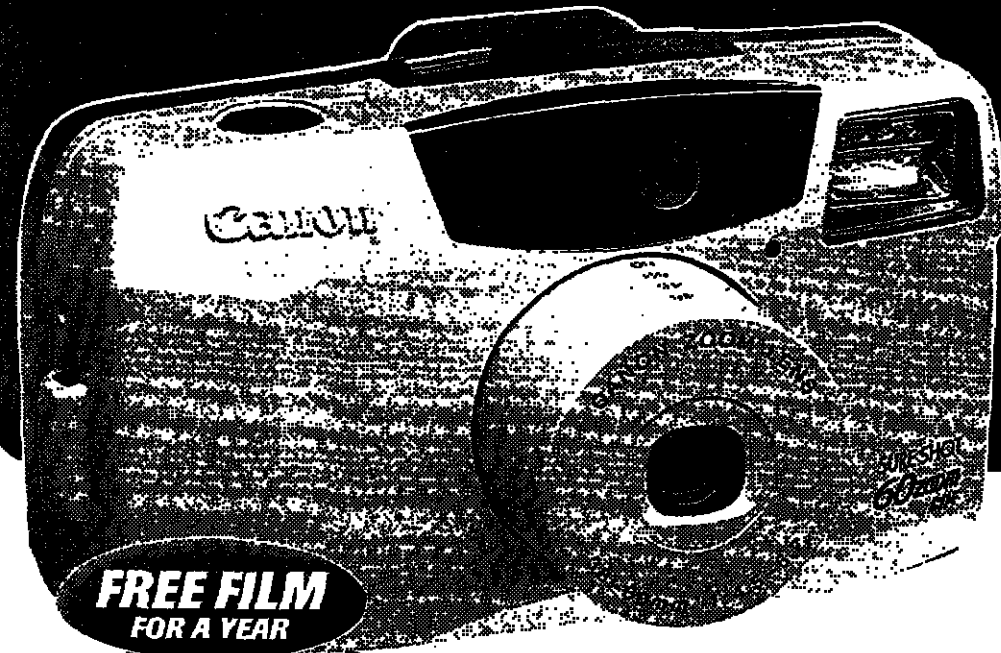
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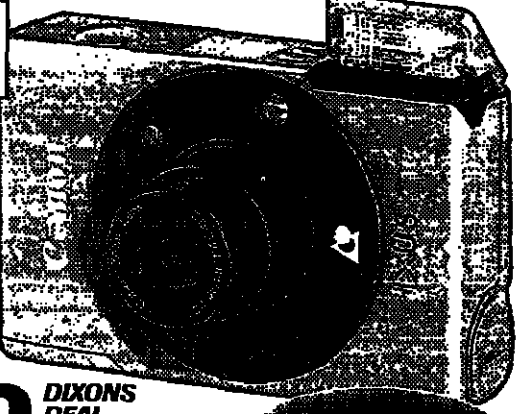
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'Who would want to kill my gentle Jill?'

Fiancé urges those with suspicions to tell police, writes Michael Harvey

THE fiancé of the murdered television presenter Jill Dando spoke yesterday of his grief and incomprehension at her death. Alan Farthing said: "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning as perfect a person as Jill."

Mr Farthing, 35, a consultant gynaecologist at a West London hospital, was due to marry Miss Dando in September. They had been seeing each other since meeting on a blind date last year.

In an emotional interview organised by the police he said: "I am coping in the same way as anybody else would cope in these circumstances. I am devastated. Everybody around me is devastated, everybody is trying to offer as much support as they possibly can."

Mr Farthing, who was told of his fiancée's death while at work at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, added: "I cannot believe what has happened. I cannot think for one moment what could go through someone's mind when they do such a thing to such a beautiful, caring and well-meaning person such as Jill."

His thoughts were focused



Jill Dando and Alan Farthing together last Christmas

on finding her killer: "Somebody has planned this... and somebody around that person will have noticed a change in behaviour. I would appeal to anyone who is suspicious not to think about it, but to just go ahead and give the police the information they have. If the information is not relevant, then let the police officers decide that."

Mr Farthing was speaking at Kensington police station, where the murder investigation is being co-ordinated. He said that Miss Dando, 37, had not spoken of any serious fears about her celebrity status or

her role presenting *Crimewatch UK*. He added: "I have spent hours, as has everybody who knows Jill, desperately racking the backs of our minds to see if we can come up with a particular reason. It is not something that was a topic of conversation. She never really felt that there was any particular danger to her as far as I'm aware."

He said that she had contacted *Crimewatch* before she joined to see if anyone had been threatened, but was assured: "It did not worry us. More worrying were the occasions when she had to go in to

the BBC car park at 1am to drive herself home."

Mr Farthing said that he could see himself going back to work, but for the moment he was too busy helping the police. "My first emotions now are that, whatever happens and whatever arrests are made, it does not bring back Jill and that is desperately sad."

"Nevertheless, it helps me and Jill's family and it helps Jill's friends and colleagues to feel that we are doing everything we can to try and apprehend whoever is responsible."

Mr Farthing, his voice breaking, said that he had last spoken to Miss Dando at 7.25am on Monday when she left his house in Chiswick. Detectives are still talking to family and friends, seeking clues.

Mr Farthing first heard that there was something wrong when he had a pager message from her agent, who was trying to find out if rumours of her death were true. He had tried to contact police stations when a senior police officer whom he knew arrived to give him the news.

Talk of a public memorial was premature but he and Miss Dando's family wanted to thank all those who had expressed their condolences.



Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell at the Dando murder scene yesterday

Delay in issuing picture holds up the hunt

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE hunt for Jill Dando's killer is making slow progress, hit by delays in issuing key pictures of the main suspect.

Three days after the murder senior detectives have also lost the advantage of the first 24 hours, called the "golden hours" by police because the memories of witnesses are at their sharpest.

Scotland Yard commanders believe the case is "very solvable", because of the number of witnesses, unless Miss Dando was the victim of a Serbian revenge attack. But a number of top leads, identified as "fast-track inquiries", carried out in the first day of investigation have failed to yield results.

These would include obvious tasks such as searches of the area, anyone immediately identified as having a motive and tip-offs of good suspects.

Yesterday the Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who had a good view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit. One of the problems is that witnesses may have only caught a side or back view of the suspect who was aged between 30 and 40, about 5ft 10in or 5ft 11in tall, well dressed in a suit or dark jacket and trousers, and carrying a mobile telephone.

The Dando murder team, led by Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, know that they must get the best picture they can and time is not on their side. If the detectives rush out a poor picture, they face the risk that possible witnesses will eliminate suspects because they do not match it. Yesterday a specialist search team often used after terrorist attacks was in Cowan Avenue and nearby streets looking for the murder weapon.

Police grapple with mystery of gunman's motive

KOSOVO CONNECTION

Theory: Miss Dando was the victim of a Serb killer acting in revenge for the bombing last week of the Serbian television station in Belgrade.

Evidence: Last week she presented a television charity appeal for the victims of the Kosovo conflict. Two anonymous callers to the BBC and one to ITN have claimed that there is a Balkan link to the murder. Several Serb television workers were killed in the Nato bombing, which the British Government justified as an attack on "the ministry of lies in Milosevic's one-medium state". The murder of such a prominent BBC employee might be seen by a Serb as apt revenge.

Likelihood: Far-fetched theory but not ruled out by the police.

PERSONAL REVENGE

Theory: She was killed by someone who knew her either in her personal or professional life.

Evidence: An admirer could have become jealous after learning of her engagement to Alan Farthing, 35, a gynaecologist. Police are questioning all those close to her, including Dr Farthing. They have searched his townhouse in Chiswick, West London. They have also spoken to her former boyfriend, Simon Basil, 33, a former game park warden who is now a computer analyst in Hampshire. She met him in January 1997 when she went was filming in South Africa. Women are more often killed by people known to them but police emphasise that neither Dr Farthing nor any former boyfriend is a suspect.

Likelihood: Possible and being investigated.

OBSESSED FAN

Theory: She was killed by a stalker who was infatuated with her.

Evidence: Miss Dando had expressed concern about her safety but not recently. As with all women television celebrities she attracted her fair share of fans and fanmail. Several websites were devoted to her. Last year she was bothered by an obsessive fan who was warned off by the BBC. Someone who believed himself to be in love with her could have been pushed over the edge by the news of her forthcoming marriage.

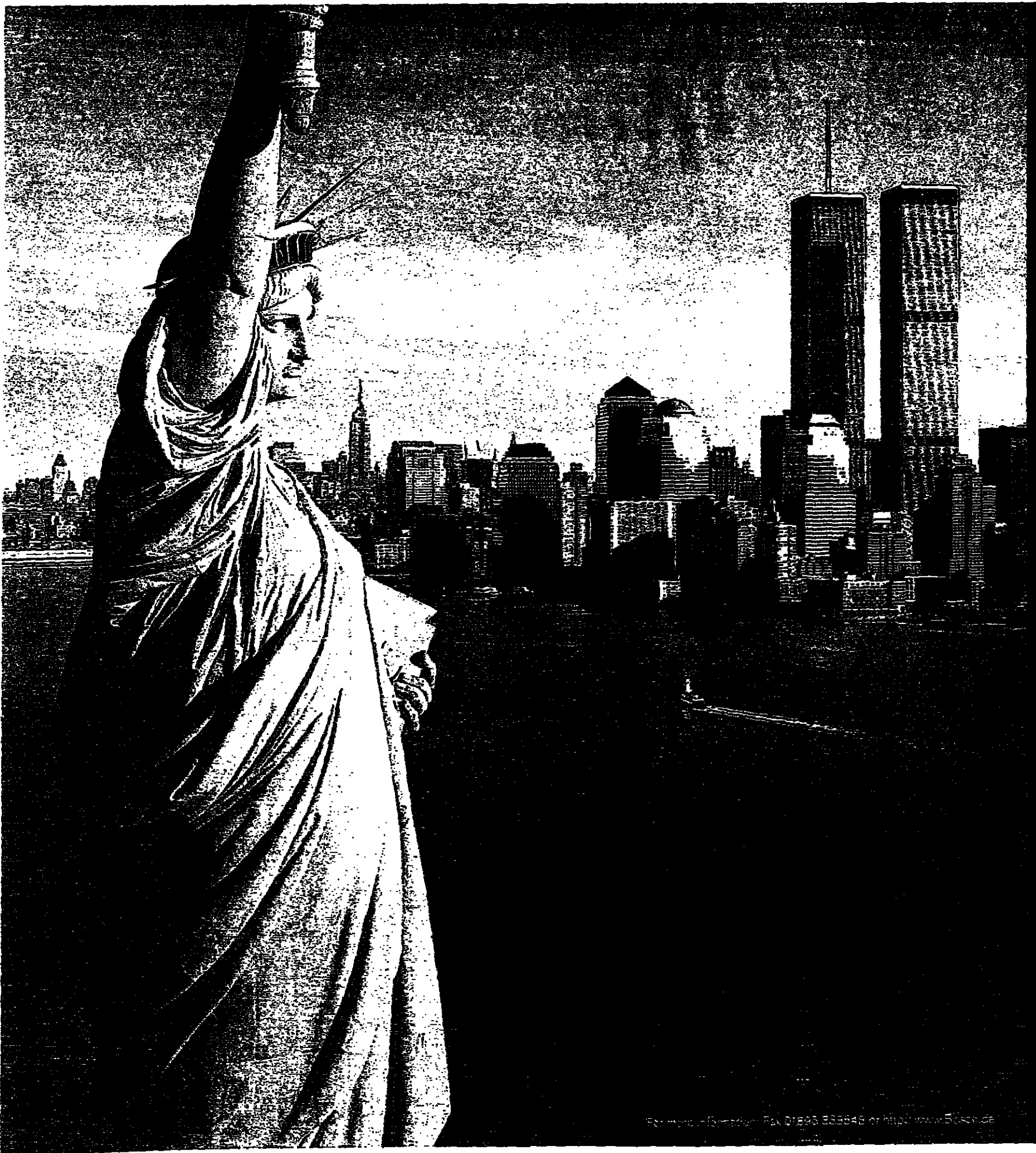
Likelihood: Possible and police are treating it seriously. But people with obsessions very rarely kill the object of their infatuation. The shooting was also too clinical to suggest that the killer was an emotionally tortured fan.

CRIMEWATCH GRUDGE

Theory: A criminal brought to justice by the BBC1 programme *Crimewatch* sought revenge by hiring a professional hitman.

Evidence: Miss Dando co-presented the programme for four years. In that time it featured nearly 500 crimes and about a third were solved. Police are examining *Crimewatch* files to see which criminals have recently been released from jail. Few of the offences featured in the programme involved the sort of gangland crime likely to provoke a revenge killing. Nick Ross, her co-presenter, does not believe there is a *Crimewatch* connection.

Likelihood: Police consider it very unlikely. A professional killer would not have worked without gloves and a well-thought out escape route.



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punchbag.**

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is about to
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Poet of the Dome will pen ode to new era

BY MARK HENDERSON

POETRY was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome yesterday when Simon Armitage was appointed as poet-in-residence.

Armitage, a Yorkshireman and one of Britain's foremost young poets, will spend six months based at Greenwich composing a 1,000-line ode to Britain's celebrations. He will be paid £5,000.

He will perform the completed work in the Dome and at venues across the country. He is also likely to read extracts at the New Year's Eve celebrations, though a full reading would probably be considered too long.

"I'm a slow reader and a thousand lines would take me about an hour," Armitage said. But he added: "If people are sober and patient enough to sit through that on millennium night, I'll do it."

The poem, which he promises will rhyme, will be published as a book. Extracts will feature around the Dome, possibly in zones for which they are appropriate.

Composing a poem to mark an event of such importance

would usually be a job for the Poet Laureate, a position that remains vacant since the death last year of Ted Hughes. Armitage is considered a strong option for the post, though not a frontrunner, and the commission is certain to boost his candidacy.

Armitage, 35 and a former probation officer, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize for his first collection of poems, *Zoom!* and is a winner of the Forward Prize for poetry. He writes on modern and accessible subjects

LINKS

www.dome2000.co.uk Millennium Dome home page
www.poetrysociety.com Poetry Society home page

ble subjects — such as the retirement of Eric Cantona — and is a regular radio broadcaster. His appointment will be seen as a gesture towards the North, where hostility towards the perceived London focus of the Dome is strong. He still lives in his home town of Huddersfield and will travel the nation for inspiration.

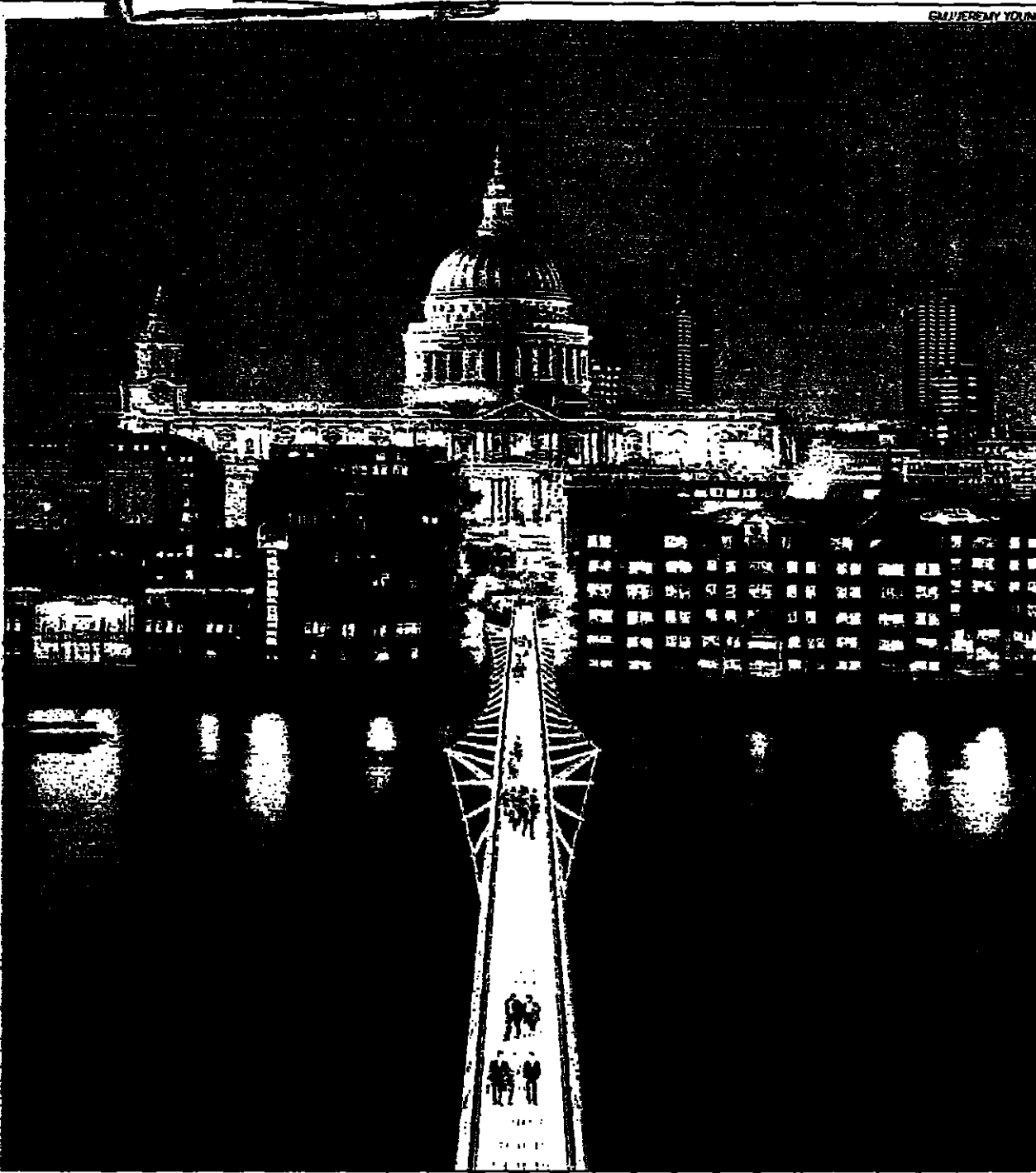
Yesterday, visiting the Dome for the first time, he said: "I want to capture the mood of the time and what people make of the millennium. I'm not clear yet where it's going to take me — that's part of the excitement."

His style and appeal to the young are thought to have influenced his appointment, which is being funded by the Poetry Society's Poetry Places lottery scheme. Schoolchildren recently voted him their second favourite for Poet Laureate, after Seamus Heaney.

Yesterday the New Millennium Experience Company announced three new sponsorship deals — with Typhoo, Kodak and Mars — bringing the total to £144 million, just short of the £150 million target. It also said that 210,000 free tickets to the Dome would be offered to Greenwich residents.



Armitage: will capture mood of the nation



"Blade of light": the bridge is expected to carry four million people a year between St Paul's and the new Tate Gallery



On site yesterday: Sir Norman Foster and John Prescott

Thames footbridge will be a lifesaver

BY MARK HENDERSON

LONDON'S first new bridge across the Thames for more than a century is to have an innovative anti-suicide design. Curving balustrades will make it almost impossible for anyone to attempt to leap to their death.

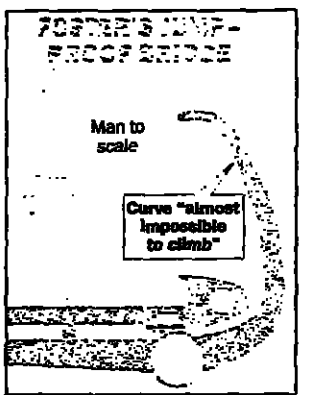
Construction began yesterday on the £16 million Millennium Bridge, which received a £7 million lottery grant. The architect Sir Norman Foster, who designed the footbridge with the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and the engineer Professor Chris Wise, said: "The contoured shape of the hand-rail makes it almost impossible to climb."

The low-level suspension bridge, which will link St Paul's Cathedral and the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, will be supported by stainless-steel balustrades that will curve away from the pedestrians. The balustrades' 5ft height and curve mean that only the most determined would be able to climb over. The four million people a year expected to use the bridge will not, however, have their views of the river-

side disturbed by high safety fences.

When it opens next April it will be London's first footbridge since Roman times and the first new bridge in Central London since Tower Bridge in 1894. At night it will be lit up to span the Thames with a "blade of light".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, officially launched construction yesterday. A second footbridge is being built with Millennium Commission funding upriver, beside the railway track on Hungerford Bridge.



Scientists train bees to detect landmines

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HONEY bees are being trained by scientists to detect landmines in the hope that they can help clear vast areas where the deadly weapons have been buried and forgotten.

The work hinges on the ability of the bees to pick up dust and airborne chemicals on their bodies. Trace levels of TNT, the explosive commonly used in landmines, can be found in the air around the buried weapons. It may also be absorbed from the soil

into the pollen of flowering plants and picked up by the bees as they forage for nectar. The bees can then be screened for explosive chemicals on their return to the hive.

Jerry Bromenshenk, a bee expert at the University of Montana at Missoula and one of the team, said: "Bees are like flying dust mops. Wherever they go, they pick up dust, airborne chemicals and other samples on their fuzzy, statically charged bodies."

The scientists are also training bees to sniff out TNT chemicals by teaching them to link the smell of

explosives with the smell of sugary substances. New bee colonies are given feeders with sugary water tainted with a marker chemical. The feeders have then been moved further away from the hive and eventually removed altogether.

Dr Bromenshenk said the bees

www.demine.org Wilson Institute for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance
www.milwars.org The Mine Warfare Association

were found foraging in areas where the marker chemical had been put down before returning to the hive.

Susan Bender, of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said: "The beauty of this approach is that bees are indigenous to nearly every climate on earth and there are beekeepers everywhere. You won't need a million-dollar piece of equipment and extensive training. The countries where landmines are a problem typically don't have those kinds of resources."

The Red Cross estimates that between 80 million and 120 million landmines are buried across the world, notably in Angola and Cambodia. An average of 60 people are maimed or killed by them every day.

Researchers at the Natural Resources Institute — part of the University of Greenwich — in Malvern, Worcestershire, have developed tiny antennae to attach to bees so that they can be tracked by radar.

Alan Smith, of the institute's radar entomology group, said: "You can tell the range and direction of a bee every three seconds."

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MPs demand revenge of the school swot

THOUSANDS of Britain's brightest children are being let down by their schools and ostracised by their classmates as "swots and boffins", according to MPs yesterday.

Successive governments have neglected the most able pupils in their efforts to raise standards in schools, according to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education. Even the literacy hour, introduced in primary schools this year, was not sufficiently flexible to cater for the clever.

The cross-party group called for a national strategy to enhance the potential of bright pupils. Among the suggestions were to teach top sixth-formers to teach top sixth-formers, via the Internet. Malcolm Wicks, the committee's chairman, said: "It would be ridiculous if the undiscovered Einstein or the undiscovered Mozart just had to plod through the A-level curriculum."

The six-month inquiry concluded that too many schools were unable or unwilling to cater to their brightest pupils. Some experts believed that up to 40 per cent of children should be considered "highly able" in one or more subjects.

Mr Wicks said: "As a nation, over the past 20 years we

Government
accused of
neglecting
most able
pupils, reports
John O'Leary

have focused on overall standards and, quite properly, been concerned about children who are doing less well. That means there is a danger that Britain's brightest children sometimes get a raw deal. We must ensure that good minds, a precious asset, are encouraged and not neglected."

The MPs' report called for named individuals to be responsible for the brightest children in each school and local authority. But it rejected any single blueprint for teaching the most able, declaring that some would thrive in selective schools, while others would do better in comprehensives.

The committee said schools should be able to provide the stimulation that the most able children needed. Without suitable programmes, some

would become frustrated and even disruptive.

Better links between schools and universities were one key to improved provision for children who could easily do A-levels. Academics could set and mark dissertations to stretch teenagers at school.

Among other recommendations were better training for teachers to recognise and teach children of high ability, and more flexibility in initiatives such as the National Literacy Strategy to avoid boring the brightest children.

But the report noted that first there must be a change in attitude regarding the education of bright children. One group that supports gifted children told the committee that it was not "cool" to be bright in many schools. Able children were dismissed as "swots".

Mr Wicks said bright children were sometimes bullied and ostracised. "Maybe this is something to do with a society in which intellectual figures are derided."

But the report insists that schools should remember that highly able children were still in their youth. They should be allowed to enjoy their childhood and not be treated as "brains on legs".



Students of self-hypnosis: from left, Matthew Chapman, Kirsty McGreany, Lindsey Lowe and Daniella Jones

Hypnosis beats exam stress

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE headmaster of a comprehensive school in Cheshire turned to a hypnotist for help when a group of GCSE pupils complained of examination stress. The students, aged 15 and 16, said that a paralysing anxiety left them unable to revise.

Graham Nelmes, head of the 1,230-pupil Priestnall School, in Heaton Mersey, near Stockport, invited Anne Jakubowska, 50, a qualified hypnotist, to the school to hypnotise them.

She conducted three one-hour sessions with the group of two boys and five girls, using her soothing voice and the power of imagination to encourage

them to unburden themselves and learn to relax.

Mrs Jakubowska hopes to be invited back to the school and that the sessions might become an annual feature in the run-up to examinations. She said that the kind of hypnosis she specialised in bore little resemblance to the theatricality of stage hypnotists.

"Hypnosis has nothing magical about it," she said. "We do not dangle anything and we don't put anybody under. They just allow themselves to become pleasantly relaxed."

"We had three sessions where we worked with the power of positive suggestion, concentrating on improving their study skills and how to help them control their anxieties."

Each pupil was given a 20-minute tape recording to switch on whenever they felt under stress.

The school turned to Mrs Jakubowska because she was a former member of the parent-teacher association. She said that the improving powers of self-hypnosis had helped her two sons, both former pupils, in their studies, one of them becoming head boy.

Dr Nelmes said he was not aware of any other school using the services of a trained hypnotist.

He said: "We have a number of ways of preparing students for exams and this is just one more. The students have found it quite useful as a way of taking their minds off the pressures involved."

Maths pupils are worse than feared

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

SUM TOTALS

There were 20 questions in the 30-minute mental arithmetic test, which will be similar this year. Pupils were asked to divide nine by three and add seven, and to calculate half of 3.6. Another question asked: "Alex paid for a tape with a £5 note and received £1.25 change. How much did the tape cost?"

PRIMARY schools appear unlikely to hit ambitious targets for mathematics after government advisers admitted that gaps in 11-year-olds' knowledge is greater than ministers thought.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, attributed a 3 per cent drop in national test results last summer to the introduction of mental arithmetic tests. A subsequent analysis by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has shown that they were responsible for only about a third of the decline.

Nick Tate, the QCA chief executive, said ministers and officials had assumed that the unexpected dip, the first in five years of testing, was due to schools' inexperience in preparing children for mental arithmetic questions. "It was a perfectly reasonable assumption to make that this was the major factor. It was a contributory factor, but not the most significant one."

The authority's evaluation of the tests showed a more general decline in performance at a time when a 4 per cent improvement was needed to maintain progress towards the Government's target. Mr Blunkett has staked his reputation on 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected level for their age by 2001, but last year only 59 per cent did so.

Coming less than a week be-

fore the start of this year's tests, the disclosure underlines the precarious state of the Government's standards agenda. However, Mr Tate said: "It would be disastrous for anyone in the education system to assume that we cannot do better than we are currently doing. We have to assume that there is potential for continuous improvement. We don't know what the results are going to be like this year, but we hope they are going to improve."

Martin Ripley, the QCA's principal manager for test development and administration, acknowledged that test results inevitably tended to "plateau" after initial improvement. But he said that pre-testing suggested that children were better prepared in mental arithmetic this year and that government guidelines on the teaching of numeracy should start to have an effect.

Sailor vanishes from lost yacht

By PAUL WILKINSON, NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

A BOAT belonging to a solo yachtsman who set off on a trip of about 15 miles has been found drifting, empty, more than 400 miles away.

Peter Bloomer, 51, an experienced amateur sailor, left the Neptune Marina at Ipswich aboard his 33ft boat, *Tropical Spirit*, at lunchtime on Saturday, April 17. He told staff that he planned to sail down the coast to Walton on the Naze, Essex, to explore coastal creeks, staying away overnight.

When he had not returned by Monday, April 19, an extensive search of the East Anglian coast was made, but nothing was found. Ports in France, Belgium and The Netherlands were alerted in case Mr Bloomer had decided to head for the Continent.

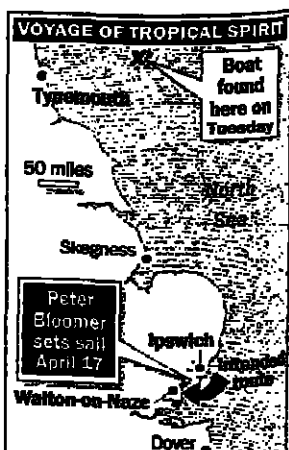
His single-masted sloop was not seen again until two days ago, when it was sighted 130 miles north-east of Tynemouth in Northumberland by a Ministry of Agriculture fisheries protection aircraft on a routine patrol. The sails were up but no one was at the helm.

HMS Leeds Castle, a fish-

eries protection vessel, went to the scene and found Mr Bloomer's passport, a diary and his mobile telephone, but no sign of him.

A Coastguard spokesman said yesterday: "There are no obvious clues about what may have happened to him. We may have to assume that he went overboard and has drowned."

Mr Bloomer, who runs a shipping company, Concept Caribbean, in Felixstowe, Suffolk, is married with two sons, aged 19 and ten.



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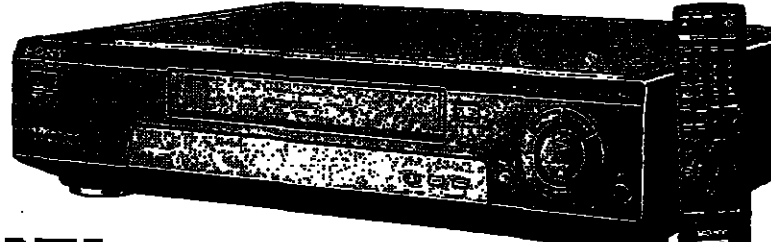
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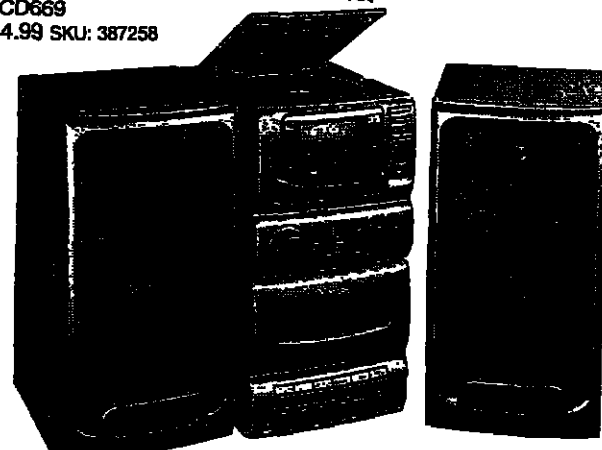
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laths pupils are worse than feared

Sailor vanishes from lost yacht



The new left hand drive Beetle

Bar puts case against Irvine's legal aid cuts

THE Lord Chancellor faced a fresh onslaught yesterday over legal aid cuts when the Bar — his own branch of the legal profession — turned its wrath on him.

The Bar is urging the Government to amend the Access to Justice Bill, which is in its committee stage today, to preserve legal aid for vulnerable groups.

It also wants enshrined in the Bill a fundamental principle, inserted by the Lords after a Government defeat, that access to justice must be provided to people without means, to the disabled and those in deprived areas.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases will affect the old, the young and the disabled, the Bar says. The Lord Chancellor insists that they will be protected by a hardship fund and the £1.6 billion annual legal aid bill will remain intact.

Dan Brennan, QC, Bar Chairman, said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor says that these are the very people who are protected under his legal aid reforms. If that is the case, why not put it in the Bill?"

"At present these people are protected under the legal aid system. Unless their future entitlement to pursue such claims is guaranteed, legal aid should be preserved for them."

Lawyers seek guarantees for vulnerable groups without means, writes Frances Gibb

Without such a guarantee, he said, the "most vulnerable people in society" would not have state protection.

He also hit back at the Lord Chancellor's comments that lawyers' protests arose from concern about their incomes. "The poverty of this argument is endorsed by its constant repetition," Mr Brennan said. "It is a stereotypical accusation that has become so hackneyed that people do not pay it any attention."

Nobody, he said, accused doctors and nurses of being concerned about their incomes when they complained about inefficiencies and lack of services in the NHS. "Lord Irvine does not say that they are lining their own pockets."

The Bar's attack adds weight to the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, which this week, backed by a coalition of consumer and other groups, started a £700,000

advertising campaign against the proposals.

The Government proposes to scrap legal aid for personal injury cases, and instead to rely on lawyers taking the cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, supported by insurance to cover the risk of having to pay the other side's legal costs. Lawyers say this will mean a wide swathe of difficult but deserving cases which cannot be pursued.

The insurance will be too costly and the risks too great for any lawyer to take many cases on, they say.

The reforms are aimed at ensuring legal aid goes on the most deserving cases and that lawyers do not run weak or speculative claims on taxpayers' money.

Lord Irvine insists that a "hard cases" fund will be set up specifically to protect such cases. But the Bar, Law Society, Consumers' Association and others want this enshrined in the legislation.

Lord Irvine yesterday renewed his own attack on the Law Society over what he described as its "misleading" advertisements. In letters to newspaper editors, he said that "vulnerable people will have been caused unnecessary worry".

Leading article, page 23



Legal aid enabled Trevor Jones to win £1 million in damages — and his independence

Cash awards that made life worth living

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG, old and disabled people are the three groups that will suffer from the loss of legal aid, the Bar says.

Trevor Jones, 38, is paralysed from the shoulders down after breaking his neck in a skiing accident ten years ago when in the Royal Navy. His case was difficult because of the lack of an obvious defendant: the accident happened when he swerved to avoid tourists cutting across the course.

After investigations, it emerged that his MoD-engaged instructor had ordered him down the course without having a proper view. The MoD was sued and more than £1 million in damages recovered.

His solicitor, John Cahill, said: "The damages have secured him a monthly income for life and given him technological equipment which has radically changed his quality of life." Without legal aid, he added, the case would not have been brought. All costs were recovered.

Mr Jones, who needs 24-hour care, is seeking sponsors for a round-the-world voyage in a wingsail yacht. He said yesterday: "The difference in having the award is enormous. I have a wheelchair which cost £15,000 and a car which cost £40,000. It has given me independence."

Richard Charlton, now 11, needs round-the-clock care. Before he was born his mother was involved in a road acci-

dent that injured them both. His parents could not care for him and he is with foster parents. With legal aid, a claim was brought against the other motorist and the settlement in his favour amounted to more than £1 million. That will provide him with care, aids and housing should he outlive his foster parents, now 70 and 64.

His barrister, David Wilby, QC, said that Richard has no voluntary limb, head or spine control. He has poor vision, and has a colostomy and is doubly incontinent. "He can smile and laugh and express concern and annoyance. He clearly loves his foster parents and his environment and he attends a special school."

Mr Wilby said that none of his care would have been possible without legal aid.

Mrs W, from Southend-on-Sea, tripped after falling over a milkcrate outside a newsagents, suffering significant injuries. She sued the shopkeeper, but he contested the action. Each had witnesses with differing stories as to how she fell.

Nigel Cooksley, the barrister who handled the case, said: "This was going to be a difficult one to prove because of the conflicting evidence. Mrs W was able to get legal aid and secured a £10,000 settlement on the steps of the court."

No solicitor would have touched the action under a "no win, no fee" agreement and all costs were recovered, he said.

Students take a shine to token effort

BY HANNAH BETTS

CITY Airport shoeshine supremo Stephen Reynolds has earned a place in *The Times* Free Books for Schools pantheon by collecting thousands of tokens for an East London school.

A delegation of ten children from Woolmore Primary School, Tower Hamlets, had a tour of the airport yesterday when they went to collect 2,500 tokens. They also tried their hand at shining shoes.

"We had great fun," said Mr Reynolds. "I've got my eye on a couple of them as budding apprentices. But I made sure to tell them that a morning out of school meant that they'd have to go back and catch up on their reading."

Mr Reynolds announced in *The Times* in February that he was looking for a school to be the beneficiary of his impressive token collection.

Many of the tokens had been plucked from the newspapers of customers while they enjoyed Mr Reynolds' work. Others had been gathered from the many travellers who pass through the airport.

Woolmore Primary is a culturally diverse school where 70 per cent of the children have English as an additional language. Pupils are given every encouragement to enjoy books, from a lunchtime reading scheme with council workers from Tower Hamlets, to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor to serve extra 200 hours

The Mayor of Labour-controlled Blaenau Gwent Council in South Wales was ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service for fiddling his expenses. Steven Bartlett, 52, was sentenced on two counts of false accounting, which he had denied before Newport magistrates earlier this month. In all, 13 councillors face such charges.

The court had heard that in 1996 he submitted a claim for a £101 first-class train fare although he had bought a £38 ticket. He also claimed more than he should for a car journey to a Brighton conference.

Mark Powell, defending, said that Bartlett had often undercharged the authority. He had repaid the money and was leaving politics.

Jail for 'air rage'

Paul Street, 31, from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, was jailed for four months at Ennis, Co Clare, after pleading guilty to using threatening, abusive behaviour on board a London-bound American Airlines Boeing 767 on Saturday. The aircraft had to divert to Shannon.

May Morning revellers in Oxford are being barred from Magdalen Bridge because of safety fears. In the past students have jumped from the bridge into the Thames. About 20,000 people had been expected to gather there at daybreak on Saturday to hear Magdalen School choir.

Bridge ban

A "don't touch" helpline was opened to save thousands of baby birds from unnecessary handling. Many are "rescued" from the ground and taken to the RSPCA, when they would be better off left alone as parents will feed them. The (50p a minute) number is 09096 71121.

Court agreement

Channel 4 is to go ahead later this year with a documentary series on homeless teenage children after an action in the High Court brought by Nottingham City Council. The identities of two girls in *Staying Lost* will be obscured. Two other children have withdrawn their consent and will not be appearing.

Embassy linked to sex trade

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A CORRUPT official in the British Embassy in Bangkok has been supplying visas to Thai women who have been recruited by Triad gangs in a trade described as "the closest thing to slavery that Western Europe has to offer", it is claimed in a programme to be broadcast tonight.

The women are brought to massage parlours in Britain under contracts which force them to service up to 700 men without receiving a penny. Many think they are going to be given jobs as waitresses in Thai restaurants.

One such girl told how she was beaten into a semi-coma when she refused.

The investigation by London Weekend Television reporter Lee Sorrell, who was infiltrated into the trafficking groups by *The Times* correspondent in Bangkok, also showed how British expatriates were more than happy to help the Triad gangs by recruiting girls and acting as "jockeys", bringing them into Britain as their girlfriends.

British-Canadian Glen Mac-

Handling charge

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TODAY IN SECTION 2

Malcolm Bradbury on the modern library: who's in and who's out

Peter Ackroyd on the religion of science

Books, pages 40-41

Bank Holiday Special Event

5 DAYS ONLY

MUST END MONDAY

HALF PRICE FORCE FEEDBACK STEERING WHEEL

MODEL: Deshay
Usual In-store Price £99.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

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£49.99

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HALF PRICE MICROSOFT DIGITAL SPEAKER SYSTEM

MICROSOFT Speakers
MODEL: Digital Sound System 80, Usual In-store Price £129.99

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LOWEST PRICE 56k EXTERNAL MODEM

56k External Modem
MODEL: 56k, Usual In-store Price £49.99

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£49.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

COLOUR INKJET PRINTER FOR UNDER £50

OLIVETTI Colour Inkjet Printer
MODEL: IP 192, Usual In-store Price £89.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£49.99

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LOWEST PRICE CD-ROM DRIVE

40x CD-ROM Drive
MODEL: LG Electronics, Usual In-store Price £49.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£39.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

LOWEST PRICE AGFA SCANNER

AGFA Flatbed Scanner
MODEL: 4490, Usual In-store Price £79.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£79.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

LOWEST PRICE ALL-IN-ONE

SAMSUNG All-in-One Printer, Copier, Scanner and Fax
MODEL: Samsung SF4300, Usual In-store Price £179.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£159.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

SAVE £70

17" Trinitron Monitor
MODEL: 2105T, Usual In-store Price £269.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£199.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

SAVE £30

Norton Utilities
MODEL: Norton Utilities, Usual In-store Price £29.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£9.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

FREE GAMEPAD ON TOP TEN GAMES

MUST END MONDAY

Championship Manager 3
Usual In-store Price £29.99

PC WORLD OFFER PRICE

£19.99

5 DAYS ONLY MUST END MONDAY

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE ON A WIDE RANGE OF SOFTWARE

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Other titles include:
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• The Sims 3
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First showing of the prince and the pawpaw

Detail in royal portrait suggests oranges were not the only fruit in Queen's hothouse, says Russell Jenkins

FRESH research into a Van Dyck masterpiece suggests that homegrown tropical fruit may have been everyday fare on the royal dining table in the time of Charles I.

Kathie Brooke, curator of European art at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, has identified the fruit featured in the painter's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I* (1637) as a pawpaw.

It is believed to be the earliest recorded image of the exotic fruit, discovered in South American Caribbean in the early 17th century, in this country. Ms Brooke speculates that it was grown in Queen Henrietta Maria's greenhouses, where oranges were also produced for the royal table.

The painting, part of the Royal Collection, was originally hung in the breakfast room at the Whitehall Palace, later burnt down. King Charles was known to be fond of it.



The pawpaw: from New World to royal table

The painting normally hangs at Windsor Castle but has been loaned by the Queen to the Walker Gallery, where it goes on show tomorrow until July 18.

Much of the scholarly interest in the painting has concentrated on the images of the children and their relationship with the huge dog. Ms Brooke said: "Identification of the pawpaw is partly hypothesis and supposition between myself and the head of botany at the Liverpool Museum. The still life has not been described in any entry or description of the painting. It has been ignored."

The painting also features a Lyme mastiff dog, a breed that has been extinct for almost a century. They were originally bred at Lyme Park in Cheshire as a hunting dog and to fight bears. But they were favoured as pets because of their docility with children. The painting shows the dog being stroked by the future Charles II.

In the 16th and 17th centuries they were given as diplomatic gifts. In 1604 James I gave a pair to Philip of Spain to mark the signing of a peace treaty. The breed died out in the early years of this century.

Ms Brooke said: "These mastiffs were used as guard dogs as well as for hunting. In the painting the dog is guarding the children, but he was obviously a bit of a softie. A King Charles spaniel is also featured in this picture and is dwarfed by the mastiff."

The discovery of the paw-

paw shows that exotic fruit adorned King Charles's dining table long before they were routinely shipped from the New World, at the end of the 17th century. Only the hardiest examples would have survived the trip from the West Indies, suggesting the Queen may have cultivated them in the hothouses at Windsor.

Ms Brooke said: "It is clearly no accident that the pawpaw is in the painting. Essentially, she was showing-off and Van Dyck was probably delighted to include it as a novel detail."

The Royal Horticultural Society said the discovery was a startling revelation. It added that there were no known records of pawpaw being cultivated in Britain.



The pawpaw can be seen beside the bowl in the top right of Van Dyck's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I*, which was painted in 1637

Exotic fruit now a fare necessity

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE pawpaw — or papaya — celebrated in song by Baloo the Bear in *The Jungle Book*, has become one of the most familiar exotic fruits on Britain's supermarket shelves. Sales have increased more than tenfold in a decade. Tonnage rose by half from 1996 to 1997 when 3,700 tonnes were brought in, and annual sales are believed now to have topped £10 million.

From tropical America, it is now grown in most tropical and sub-tropical regions and comes from a fast-growing plant that fruits from the central stem after only a year. Pawpaw can be eaten as a fruit or vegetable, usually

sprinkled with lemon or lime juice and/or sugar. It can be diced in salads, makes good sorbets, mousses and ice-creams and is used for chutneys and jams.

The seeds can be liquidised as a salad dressing, having a spicy mustard and cress flavour. They can be dried and used as a spice and, in Australia, Aborigines considered them an aphrodisiac.

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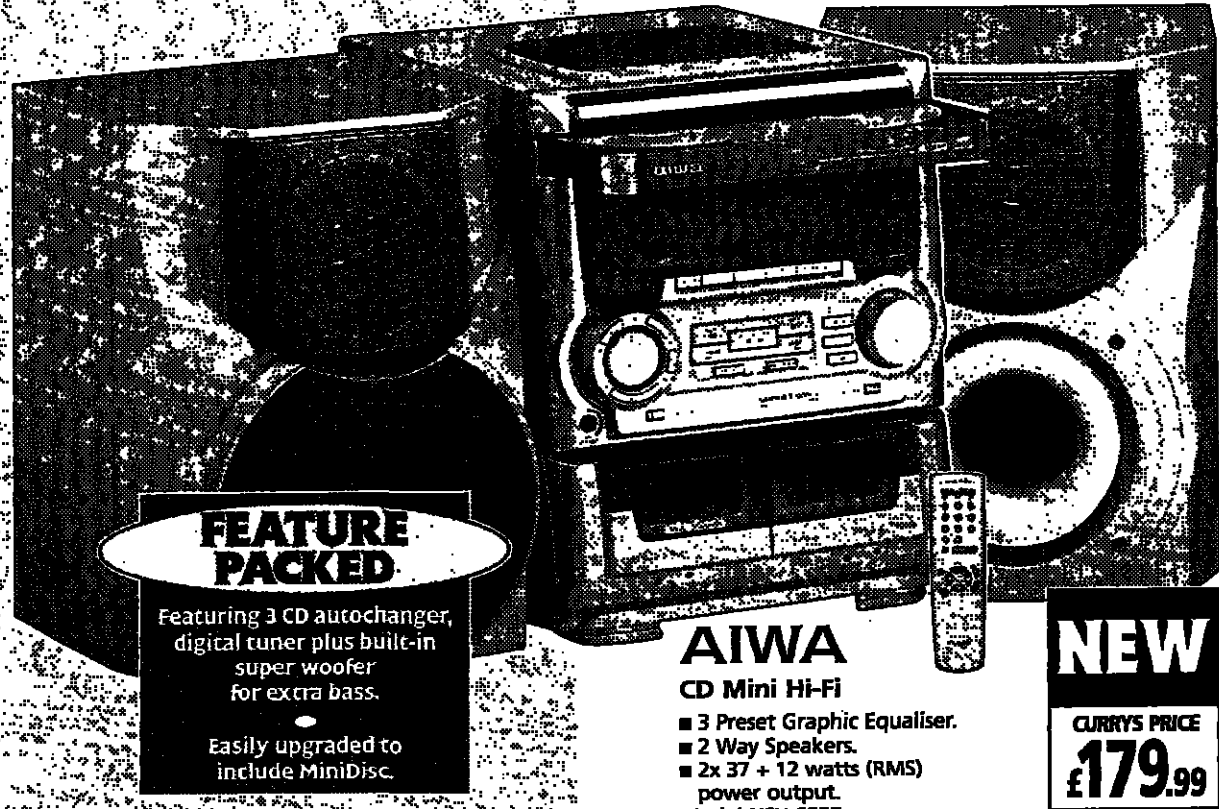
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MiniDisc Separates SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120

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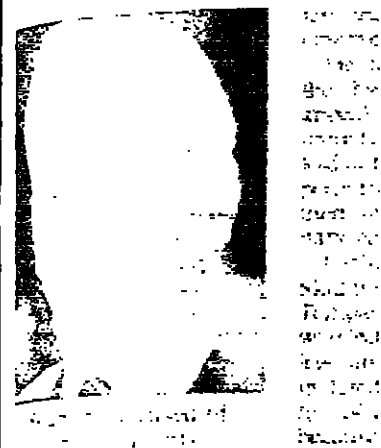
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Tebbit surgeon was dismissed after blunders

A DISTINGUISHED surgeon who was made an OBE for helping to save Lord Tebbit's wife after the Brighton bombing was sacked after a series of life-threatening blunders during operations, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

David Skidmore perforated a woman's artery during keyhole surgery to remove her gall bladder the day after he lacerated another patient's liver during another keyhole operation. The woman whose artery was pierced required emergency heart resuscitation and a blood transfusion to stop her bleeding to death.

The operations were the culmination of a catalogue of errors that caused "major anxieties" among Mr Skidmore's colleagues at the Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, in 1997, said Paul Key, medical director of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

He told the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: "It was not one colleague but several raising concerns. Both myself and the clinical director decided we would recommend sus-

Senior medical figure claims victimisation over criticism of NHS, writes Joanna Bale

pension leading to dismissal. As medical director I had a duty to act."

Dr Key said he realised that two operations had gone wrong on consecutive days only when the husband of one of the women told him that the patients had been in adjoining beds and had been comparing their ordeals.

Mr Skidmore, 59, who was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct in 1997, was also accused of lying to patients and colleagues to play down the blunders. Dr Key added: "Mr Skidmore was a senior consultant. Consultants are regularly unsupervised and it is imperative that, in their dealings with the trust, other professionals and patients, they observe complete integrity."

He added: "The findings of the chief executive, upheld on appeal, meant that Mr Skidmore had on several occasions told untruths which were compounded by his persistence in them over a two-day disciplinary hearing."

Earlier in the hearing, Mr Skidmore's lawyer, Anthony Temple, QC, said the surgeon, who lectures at University College and Middlesex hospitals in London, had been the victim of a malicious campaign because of his criticism of hos-

pital management both before and after NHS reforms.

The hearing, in which Mr Skidmore is claiming unfair dismissal, is being regarded by some as a challenge by doctors about who should run hospitals — senior medical staff or non-medical managers.

Mr Skidmore is seeking reinstatement, claiming that the complaints against him do not amount to misconduct because six cases questioning his clinical competence were rejected by the GMC.

Mr Skidmore, who worked at Joyce Green Hospital from 1980, as well as West Hill and North Kent hospitals, has frequently criticised the management of NHS hospitals and trusts. In 1990 he criticised the then South East Thames Regional Health Authority for overspending its budget and seeking credit from suppliers.

The hearing is expected to last three weeks.



Bernadine Coady resting after the "painless" operation on her foot

Trance helps patient to blank out pain

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NURSING home matron returned to work yesterday, two days after a painful operation on her foot under self-hypnosis.

Bernadine Coady, 58, who was worried about having an anaesthetic because she has a trait of sickle-cell anaemia, put herself into a trance, a technique she learnt five years ago while studying for a diploma course at the British School of Hypnosis.

Mrs Coady, who came to Britain 30 years ago from Belize to train as a nurse, had the operation to reconstruct the bones in her foot so that she could walk without pain. Despite a warning that the procedure would involve cutting muscles and tendons and sawing through bone, she decided against having an anaesthetic because of her condition, in which the blood can easily be starved of oxygen. She had originally booked a hypnotist to come to the Fitzwilliam Hospital, in Peterborough. Ahmed Shair, her surgeon, had agreed the arrangement with the hospital, but took the precaution of having an anaesthetist on standby in case Mrs Coady was unable to bear the pain.

At the last minute the hypnotist failed to show up and Mrs Coady decided to hypnotise herself. "I imagined my leg as an iron rod and that when I heard the instruments, it was them knocking against the iron bar. I

said to myself that, if I had any pain, I was going to liken it to waves lashing against a sea wall. Every time it happened, I thought it was the pain going away, like the tide."

Mrs Coady, from Wimbleson, Cambridgeshire, said: "I worked on the pain. I was aware of everything that was going on. This is the power of the mind, or madness. If surgeons could open their minds to it, you would find more people doing it."

Mr Shair said that he had never performed an operation in such a manner in his 20 years as a surgeon. "She was in absolute control."

The operation requires an overnight stay to recover, but Mrs Coady was able to go home hours later.

Kenneth Phillips, a retired GP who works in Harley Street, said all hypnosis was self-hypnosis. "People who become hypnotised have to be capable of transferring their conscious mind somewhere else." He would like to see hypnosis used more commonly in surgery. "Every anaesthetic is a risk but, with hypnosis, there is virtually no risk." There is also less bleeding.

LINKS
<http://www.hypnosis.org.uk/orgs.htm> Information and register of medical hypnosis organisations



Skidmore: accused of lying to patients

Adverts are the price of free phone calls

By CHRIS AYRES

TELEPHONE bills could soon become a thing of the past for callers willing to interrupt their conversations every few minutes to listen to a commercial break.

Britain's first "free" national telephone service, Free2Talk, will be launched in July by Freedom Telecom, a little-known telephone company in which the television presenter Noel Edmonds is an investor. Freedom, run by a 26-year-old entrepreneur, Joshua Sayles, has spent £18 million setting up the service, which it will launch in partnership with the Energis telephone company.

An almost identical service provided by BT will go on trial next month in Bristol and Tyne and Wear, and is expected to be launched nationally later this year.

Customers who want to take advantage of either service will have to fill in a questionnaire, detailing their shopping habits, age, sex and income. They will then be given an access code.

Both services are likely to be aimed at young people, students and low-income households. Freedom's service is expected to play adverts every five minutes, while BT's will be every two minutes.

Similar services have proved a success in Stockholm, where a small company, GratisTel, has gained a 7 per cent market share.

US girls find that thin is beautiful

By ALEX O'CONNELL

SKINNY teenage girls are more likely to go out with boys than their curvier peers, according to a new study.

A mere 19lb can be the difference between getting a date and missing out, says a report by Carolyn Halpern, an assistant professor of maternal and child health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr Halpern, whose study set out to investigate the implications of body fat on sexual activity, said: "One reason adolescent girls are concerned about their weight is that they believe that being slim increases their chances of dating. Our data indicates they are right."

Researchers followed 200 white and black girls aged 13 and 14 for two years. They found that a girl of average height and weight in the group — around 5ft 3in tall and weighing 9 stone — was only half as likely to date as a girl of the same height and physical maturity weighing 7 stone 9lb.

However, the American findings seem to be out of kilter with the current British trend for normal-sized, healthy-looking teenage pop stars and actresses. Posters of the buxom 16-year-old pop singer, Billie, are currently on the bedroom walls of adolescent boys across the country.

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Westminster must not look down on Scots

Life will never be the same again at Westminster. The election of the Scottish parliament in a week's time will not only change politics for ever north of the border, it will also have far-reaching, yet little appreciated, consequences for the House of Commons.

Recent polls suggest that around 15 members of the Commons (plus nine former MPs) are likely to become members of the parliament in Edinburgh. Most of them will probably be part-timers at Westminster, like some Northern Ireland MPs are now.

But the position of all 72 Scottish MPs has changed. This is not only about the long-debated, important, yet unresolved West Lothian question, the anomaly whereby Scottish MPs can vote on health, education and other devolved matters affecting people in England, but not their constituents north of the border.

Much of the day-to-day postbags of MPs concern just those domestic issues which are being devolved. So should a member of the Commons pass on a letter to the member of the Scottish parliament who will, after all, represent the same area? There may be problems even if the two members are of the same party, given the prickly egos of many politicians. Also, what will the Scottish MPs do at Westminster? Not all are like Gordon Brown or Robin Cook. There are several poor quality MPs from in and around Glasgow who have little to say on national, as opposed to devolved, issues.

Scotland will have a mosaic of representation. As well as local councillors, Scots will, after May 6, also have one constituency member, and seven regional list members, of the Scottish parliament.

After June 10, Scots will be represented by eight members of the European Parliament. But who should constituents contact? What does rep-

resentation now mean? This issue was addressed at a recent seminar organised by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Scottish Council Foundation. One theme was "signposts, not no-entry signs", so information should be available about the differing roles of elected members and their specific interests, but there should be no rigid demarcation about who handles what issue.

I doubt if this will be sustainable in the long-term: in Germany, where there is a similar multi-layered structure, most constituency case work is handled at the local or regional/lander levels rather than nationally.

The current view of representation will have to be re-examined. As Matthew Taylor, director of the IPPR, has argued "to compensate for their lack of job satisfaction, MPs have invested more and more time in individual case work for constituents. But while MPs spend an average of more than 30 hours a week on casework which would be better dealt with by local councillors or a strengthened ombudsman, other important roles are largely overlooked".

MPs should, as Mr Taylor argues, see themselves more as civic entrepreneurs, not just dealing with individual cases but also getting people together (councils, businesses and community groups). The Scottish parliament will also have lessons for Westminster, not just in the semi-circular design of the chamber, or electronic voting, or the "family-friendly" working hours. The proportional electoral system should ensure that no one party has an overall majority, so the emphasis will be on consensus building, co-operation and consultation. Scotland is a laboratory of democracy, and Westminster should not be superior, as it usually is, about the experience of other legislatures.

Peter Riddell
ON POLITICS

Blame it on Basildon

Tory turmoil has its roots in Essex man's input to party's focus groups, writes Andrew Pierce

BASILDON — the 1980s stronghold of Thatcherism — was an unlikely trigger for the biggest crisis of William Hague's leadership.

It was in the home of Essex Man that 12 disillusioned Tory voters gathered round a table in a private house to discuss why they had abandoned the party.

The health service dominated the 90-minute discussion shortly before Easter, the last focus group in target seats including Basinstoke, Redditch, Leeds and Ipswich. The voters met under the watchful eye of ICM, the Tories' polling organisation. Each person was paid £20.

But it proved the most politically expensive focus group the Tories have commissioned. Peter Lilley analysed the thoughts of the Basildon voters, and decided his party had no option but to go for broke — the link with Margaret Thatcher and the free market must be severed.

The result has been the biggest revolt at Conservative party headquarters in living memory. Mr Lilley, once regarded as one of the most thoughtful and Thatcherite figures in the party, is now an isolated and forlorn figure, the brow beneath his thinning fair hair furrowed in fear.

Only Danny Finkelstein, the former SDP member who is head of policy, and David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, are prepared to stand up for Mr Lilley, the blond who dropped the bombshell.

The other two former SDP members now running Central Office — Andrew Cooper, head of operations and Rick Nye, head of research — were sceptics in the first place. They are both furious that focus group research has been used to such disastrous effect.

Mutinous Tory MPs are now demanding Lilley's head in the next reshuffle. "He has to go," one former minister said last night. At headquar-



Lilley: the blond who dropped the bombshell



Hague: the leader who wants to ruffle feathers

WHO SAID WHAT: THE ROAD TO A U-TURN

■ "Most Conservatives have always accepted that the public services are intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market." Peter Lilley, unannounced first draft of Rab Butler memorial lecture, circulated to Shadow Cabinet, April 15.

■ "We will only renew public confidence if we openly and emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare." Peter Lilley, preview of Rab Butler lecture in *The Times*, April 19.

■ "In some public services there may be some scope for introducing diversity and choice among providers of the service and for encouraging public-private partnerships." Peter Lilley, Rab Butler lecture, April 20.

■ "We believe that the private sector, in partnership with the public, can make an important new contribution to the health services in this country." William Hague, in *The Times*, April 23.

■ "Of course it ruffles a few feathers if you do that. But they will have to get unruffled because that is the way I

am going to carry on." William Hague, speaking on Radio 5 Live's *Sunday Breakfast* programme, April 26.

■ "The parliamentary party is in crisis over the Lilley speech." James Arbuthnot, Conservative Chief Whip, April 27.

■ "We will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions of the free market..." William Hague, speech to Conservative activists, April 28.

'Private money will help the NHS'

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories insisted yesterday that they were as keen as ever to get more private money into the National Health Service.

After days of confusion about Conservative policy on opening public services to the market, Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, said it had not changed. She listed various ways in which she wanted to bring private money into the NHS, emphasising that they would only be additional to state spending, not a substitute for it.

Options being considered include tax concessions for those taking out private medical insurance, help for firms which offer employee insurance schemes and expanding the amount of building and refurbishment carried out under the Private Finance Initiative. She also proposed setting up a commission "to develop ways of adding commercial and charitable health provision on top of state provision".

Miss Widdecombe said: "We are trying to take a very broad view and look at a number of possibilities."

Miss Widdecombe, who was one of the senior Tories to criticise Peter Lilley at last week's Shadow Cabinet meeting over his speech distancing the party from Thatcherism, was addressing a press conference called by Conservative Central Office to try to draw a line under the episode. "There has never, ever been any suggestion, not under Margaret Thatcher, not under John Major, of privatising the health service," Peter Lilley was trying to dispel that myth and he was right to do so," she said.

But both she and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, refused to endorse the views of Mr Lilley as laid out in the first draft of his Rab Butler memorial lecture in which he said the public services were "intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market".

Leading article, page 23

Activists bemoan Lilley 'own goal'

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY activists yesterday expressed concern and dismay about the row dividing the Shadow Cabinet one week before the local elections.

Michael Buxton, Michael Howard's agent in his Folke-

stone and Hythe constituency, said that some party workers were unhappy about the genesis of the row in Peter Lilley's speech last weekend.

A constituency chairman in a Tory seat in the Midlands said his activists were furious. "We don't like it at all," he said. "The reaction here is very

strongly against Lilley and there is alarm about any detachment from Thatcherite policies. The problem is no one can identify what's happening and that does not make it easy to get across our message to voters."

Michael Heseltine's constituency chairman in Henley,

Michael McInnes, said he was very concerned at Mr Lilley's speech. "When I read it I thought, 'Oh God, not another own goal.'"

Jean Gibbons, acting chairman in Tom King's Bridgewater seat, said it was "not a good moment to be having these internal wrangles".

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QUOTE of the day

Mike Powell, the SNP's...
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...he had no separatist...
...a backdoor...
...Independence is at...
...the door and the...
...heart of our concerns...
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Wallace wary of bridge too far for Lib Dems

BY JASON ALLARDYCE AND MAGNUS LINKLATER

THE Liberal Democrats could sacrifice their commitment to abolishing university tuition fees as the price of forming a coalition with Labour in the Scottish parliament.

In an interview with *The Times*, Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, refused to guarantee that a Lib-Lab deal would require the £1,000-a-year charges to be scrapped. His refusal is likely to spark a backlash within his party and among students given that a commitment to abolishing the fees is contained in its manifesto for the Scottish elections on May 6.

Until now, it seemed likely that a cross-party alliance would outvote Labour on the charges in the Edinburgh parliament because the Scottish National Party and Scots Tories are also committed to abolishing tuition fees.

But it now seems increasingly likely that a coalition deal could be reached between Labour and the Lib Dems which

would involve Labour promising further investment across Scottish education.

Asked if he would guarantee that a Lib-Lab government would scrap the fees, Mr Wallace said: "You are jumping the gun. I'm telling you that's our policy, that's what we want to get, along with every other policy in the manifesto."

In contrast, Mr Wallace has set out a clear pre-condition for a coalition with the SNP. He still argues that a deal is impossible unless the nationalists abandon their commitment to a referendum on Scottish independence in the first four-year term.

Mr Wallace is diffident about his working title during the election campaign as "the king-maker". Despite the fact that his party may be within a week of wielding the kind of power it has aspired to but failed to achieve for the better part of this century, Mr Wallace refuses to be drawn on what his precise terms are for

serving in a coalition government. He even prefers to quote the words of his Labour rival Donald Dewar rather than trust his own. "There's been a lot of speculation about what happens," he reads. "As far as I'm concerned I'm thinking about the 6th of May. The 7th of May will take care of itself."

"There are a number of options currently available. Until we see what the circumstances are, we've not selected one option above another. That would be foolish. Until we are in a position to do that, we will keep pushing our case and listening to the people of Scotland."

It is hardly the most electrifying quotation of the campaign, but Mr Wallace is well pleased with it. He describes it as "elegant". And it allows him to fence round the one question everyone wants an answer to.

But it is clear that he is fully prepared for the great day when, as he hopes, he will sit down with Labour and negoti-



Jim Wallace on the campaign trail in Dundee. On the horse-trading expected after the election, he says: "I'm not to be bought at any price"

ate for power. The one moment at which he became suddenly forthright was when he was asked whether Labour might simply refuse to negotiate, and carry on with a minority government.

"There would be a presumptuousness there," he warns. "A

kind of arrogance that people despise about the Labour Party, who think they can have it all their own way even when the people haven't given them a majority to have it their own way. I don't think that would be the best recipe for stability."

So when will we know what the Liberal Democrats' conditions will be for joining a coalition Scottish government? Mr Wallace has the answer: May 8. Not May 7, the day after the elections. "No decisions will be made that day," he says. "The one piece of advice I've had from Paddy Ashdown

is: don't make any decisions immediately after polling day, because you're far too tired. I want to get to my bed as early as possible." And which job will he be angling for in a future Scottish Cabinet? "Ha, you're not going to draw me on that," he says triumphantly.

"I'm not going to trade principles for a ministerial Mondoo." Not even a ministerial Jag? For a moment, a pause, and then a loud guffaw. "Certainly not," he says. "I'm not to be bought at any price."

Magnus Linklater, page 22

Tories in split over stunt



Scotland's two main parties Tories clashed publicly over a controversial election campaign stunt which has threatened future party funding. The split came after *The Times* revealed that the party was facing legal action over its decision to produce 30,000 T-shirts bearing the slogan "FOUK Tuition Fees".

Annabel Goldie, the Scottish party's deputy leader, voiced the deep anger of traditional activists who found the stunt grossly offensive. The party's troubles deepened further last night when a spokeswoman for French Connection, which owns the trademark FCUK, confirmed that the company's lawyers had issued the Conservative Party with a letter demanding legal action. The company is also demanding a financial apology from William Hague.

SNP changes tactic

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, has put independence firmly back at the centre of his party's campaign, promising to hold a referendum on the issue in the event of a victory in the election. In a change of tactics, Mr Salmond will place fundamentalism in the Scottish National Party. Mr Salmond suggested for the first time in the campaign that the SNP should be asked to vote on independence within the parliament's first year. When the campaign started, independence was placed last on the party's ten-point plan card. A series of disastrous poll results have forced the SNP to relaunch its campaign.

QUOTE of the day

Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, denying that the Scottish nationalist has had any separation in a backroom.

"Independence is at the centre and the heart of our concerns and always has been."

today's AGENDA

David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, visits the Isle of Arran where he will talk about the SNP's economic policies. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, attends a Catholic schooling conference in Clief. Labour's Donald Dewar takes the battletube to Glasgow. Jim Wallace, Lib Dem leader, will talk about tuition fees in Cumbernauld.

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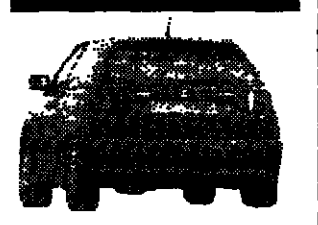
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Volvo 343/345 1.4 to-8/91	£39.95	£29.95	£10
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Tension rises over Israel poll

Vote hangs in balance, writes Christopher Walker from Jerusalem

THE Palestinians yesterday decided to postpone any decision on declaring an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza until after the Israeli election, adding a new dimension to a cliff-hanging poll that moved into top gear this week with the launch of television campaign broadcasts.

The news came against the backdrop of 48 hours of violence in which eight Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon and another was injured in the West Bank.

Even before the latest violence, the future of Israel's 21-year military presence in southern Lebanon and the deadlocked Middle East peace process with the Palestinians — including their continued demand for an eventual state — had emerged as key issues bitterly dividing the main contenders.

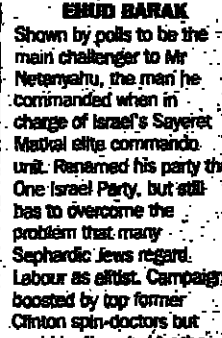
Because of the closeness of the race — the last poll in 1996 was decided by 30,000 votes — and the constraints imposed on rallies by security problems, television advertising is expected to play a key role.

The election takes place on

RIVALS IN THE MAY 17 ELECTION



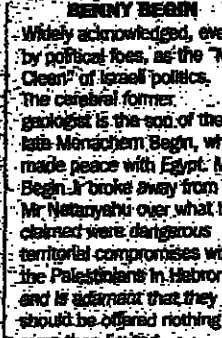
EHUD BARAK
Shown by polls to be the main challenger to Mr Netanyahu, the man he commanded when in charge of Israel's Sayeret Matkal elite commando unit. Renamed his party the One Israel Party, but still has to overcome the problem that many Sephardic Jews regard Labour as elitist. Campaign boosted by top former Clinton spin-doctors but could be thwarted by the new Centre Party.



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
Narrowly elected as Israel's youngest Prime Minister in 1996, "Bibi" Netanyahu was forced to the polls 18 months earlier than expected after failing to hold his Likud-led coalition together over the deadlocked peace process. Unwashed king of Israel's media-dominated campaigning, he is still a possible winner despite making many enemies while in power and upsetting the White House.



YITZHAK MORDECHAI
Popular former Defence Minister under Mr Netanyahu until sacked on TV for his talks with Centre Party, which he now leads. After opinion polls showed him the most popular of the contenders with voters, favours continuation of peace process, but has yet to take off in the polls, against Mr Barak and Mr Netanyahu. Under pressure to stand down in exchange for top post in a future Barak-led government.



SHIMON PERES
Widely acknowledged, even by political foes, as the "Mr Clean" of Israeli politics. The cerebral former gas engineer is the son of the late Moshe Dayan, who made peace with Egypt. Mr Peres broke away from Mr Netanyahu over what he claimed were dangerous territorial compromises with the Palestinians in Lebanon, and is adamant that they should be offered nothing more than limited autonomy.



AZMI BISHARA
The first Arab ever to run for the premiership. A former head of philosophy at West Bank's Bir Zeit University — a focus of Palestinian nationalism — he is a Christian Arab leading a splinter from the Israeli Communist Party. Favours Israel as a secular, democratic (ie, not defined as Jewish) state, with cultural autonomy for its one million Arabs. Backs a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

May 17 with 33 parties competing for 120 seats in the 15th Knesset, compared with the record set in 1988 of 27 parties struggling for the 55,000 votes needed to secure a single seat. More significant are the five candidates running for the directly elected position of prime minister, which Benjamin Netanyahu has held since 1996. If one of those fails to win 50 per cent in the first ballot, there

will be a presidential-style second round between the two front-runners on June 1.

Predictions of the outcome in a country where the old joke of "two Jews, three opinions" is very much alive and well, have been complicated by the emergence of a new Centre Party, led by Yitzhak Mordechai, Mr Netanyahu's popular former Defence Minister, as a strong contender. Unless

Mr Mordechai stands down before May 17, he will open the way to a second round between Mr Netanyahu and Labour's Ehud Barak.

Mr Netanyahu is likely to win a second round because of a strong turnout among Jewish supporters compared with that of Israeli Arabs, unlikely to turn out a second time in sufficient numbers to secure victory for Mr Barak. Neither Ben-

jamin Begin, the far-right candidate, nor Azmi Bishara, the first Arab prime ministerial challenger in Israel's 51-year history, are given any chance.

Mr Netanyahu led off the nearly 90 minutes of party political broadcasts on Monday night, many scripted and supervised by highly paid American media experts. Offstage in Mr Netanyahu's corner is Arthur Finkelstein,

the conservative US campaign wizard who is so reclusive about his presence in Israel that he often checks into a Jerusalem hotel under a false name.

Mr Barak — Israel's most decorated soldier — is having his campaign masterminded by a team of liberal Americans including James Carville, the so-called "Ragin' Cajun" from Louisiana, Stanley Greenberg and Bob Shrum, who were all present at the birth of the famous slogan for party workers in President Clinton's first campaign, "It's the economy, stupid".

"The American advisers will market the two leaders to the people of Israel in almost the same way as an advertiser markets a new orthopaedic mattress," said the *Haaretz* columnist Akiva Eldor.

"The difference is that the ratings of the campaign broadcasts really can affect the Israeli citizen's quality of sleep during the next four years."

The outcome is expected to hinge on the whim of floating voters, and the spin-doctors will be focusing on the one million immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

In Monday's opening round Mr Netanyahu's Likud had the wit to include Russian subtitles for the new arrivals. By Tuesday, such is the speed of Israel's "electoral response teams", Labour's platform was repeated word for word in Cyrillic also.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Russo-Chinese frontier pact

Beijing: China and Russia have reached a breakthrough in talks to map out their common border, ending a 300-year-old dispute, a Russian diplomat said here. "The task of marking out the border is complete after seven years of work," he said of the 2,656-mile border between the states.

The head of the Russian negotiating team, Genrikh Kiryev, had exchanged documents in Beijing with his Chinese opposite numbers, the diplomat said. "The documents are ready to be signed. It will be done at the next summit between the heads of state or government this year, either in Moscow or in Beijing." (AFP)

Home rights for 1.6m

Hong Kong: Officials say that more than 1.6 million mainland Chinese could have the right to live in Hong Kong as the result of a court ruling last January (Jill McGivering writes). A government survey suggests that 700,000 people, the children of permanent residents, could apply for residency immediately. Many are adults, and their children, more than 900,000 second-generation migrants, would also win the right of abode.

Kabila victory claim

Nairobi: The Congolese Army announced that its forces recaptured the eastern town of Bendersa this week after heavy fighting with rebels and Rwandan troops in which 120 Rwandans were killed (Robin Lodge writes). There has been no independent confirmation of the claim, which was made by the armed forces spokesman, Leon Kasonga. If confirmed, it would provide a significant boost to the Government of President Kabila.

Capitol bacteria scare

Washington: Safety inspectors have found a recurrence of "potentially hazardous" levels of legionnaires' disease bacteria in the power plant that supplies heat and air-conditioning to the Capitol building (Ian Brodie writes). High concentrations were found seven months ago. Inspectors said the system would not send the deadly bacteria through vents to congressional offices, but could pose a hazard to plant workers.

Supper's ready

Rome: Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, painted on the wall of a convent in Milan in 1498, went on show to the public after restoration work lasting 22 years. Rather than using the classic fresco technique, Leonardo chose a mix of tempera emulsion and oil on a plaster base. The technique, generally reserved for paintings on wood, allowed him to retouch the composition, but trapped damp in the wall. (AFP)

Death penalty call

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. Thirty of the commission's members voted in favour and 11 against, including the United States and China. The European Union-sponsored text calls on all states that have the death penalty to reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed. (AFP)

Grateful Mandela forges closer ties with Russians



Mandela: greeted by a guard of honour

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S renaissance as a world power was further reinforced yesterday by the arrival in Moscow of Nelson Mandela, the South African President.

Mr Mandela, who retires in June and is in Russia to discuss strengthening bilateral political and economic ties, expressed his gratitude to Russia for its support in fighting apartheid.

"We received enormous assistance from the Soviet Union, the assistance we could not get from the West," he said. "Russia should have been the very first country

that I visited and I have come to pay that debt now."

The two countries signed agreements on the development of natural resources, such as gold and diamonds, and a declaration of co-operation in nuclear energy, specifically the development of helium modular nuclear reactors, thought to be the safest.

Russian politicians now railing against Nato's actions in Serbia are painfully aware of their economic dependence on the West. The International Monetary Fund has agreed to resume loans to Russia, beginning with about \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) in an accord to be finalised in Washington this week.

Birthday bash for Saddam

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq celebrated his 62nd birthday yesterday by throwing a huge party across his impoverished country to demonstrate the resilience of his regime in the face of economic sanctions and a war of attrition by US and British military aircraft (Michael Theodorou writes). State radio crooned *Happy Birthday* in English, while singers and poets led parades of admiration of the man who has led his country into two disastrous wars in 20 years.

Pol Pot torture chief tells of Briton's death

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

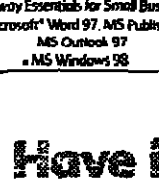
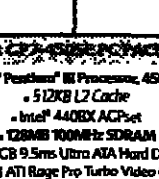
COMRADE Deuch, the commandant of Pol Pot's "S-21", the extermination and torture prison in Phnom Penh during the years of the "killing fields", has been found helping refugee charities in western Cambodia and says that as a born-again Christian he wants to atone for his sins.

Deuch, real name, Kiang Khiek Iev, was the most wanted member of the Khmer Rouge regime after its leader Pol Pot, who died last year. In an interview with a British photo-journalist, Nic Dunlop, he said he remembered John Dewhurst, a Briton captured

by the Khmer Rouge with a New Zealand friend, Kerry Hamill, and a Canadian, Stuart Glass. The three were executed at S-21. "Yes, the Englishman was very polite," he said. "All foreigners were killed and their bodies burnt so no bones were left."

In his confession after torture, Dewhurst wrote that he was a CIA agent, recruited at the age of 12, and that his father was also a CIA agent whose cover was as the headmaster of a Newcastle secondary school. Dewhurst also said he attended a CIA school in Loughborough with a sign on the gate saying "Loughborough Town Council Highways Department".

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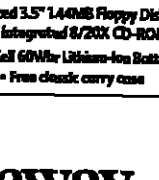
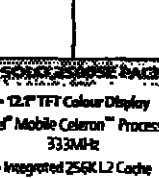
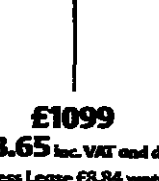
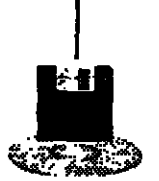
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

DORINDA AT THE OSCARS

Dorinda McCann, our ex-chambermaid turned roving reporter, does the Oscars, where she turned in a star performance and gave an emotional speech afterwards. The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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WORLD IN BRIEF

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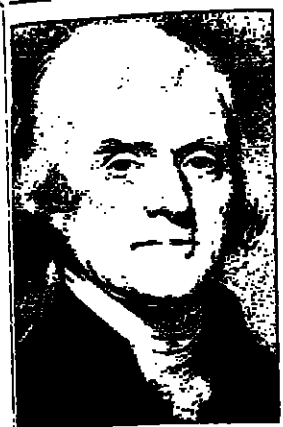
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Thomas Jefferson: had at least one child with slave

Race row threatens Jefferson reunion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE annual family gathering of Thomas Jefferson's descendants will include blacks as well as whites for the first time next month, but a new dispute is brewing over whether the black claimants should formally be grafted on to the Jefferson family tree. The debate over whether Jefferson had black offspring erupted after a 200-year-old patent suit, which came to a verdict last November when a judge ruled that one of the children belonging to Jefferson's slave, Hemmings, was probably fathered by America's third President. The Monticello Association, a group of 700 officially acknowledged Jefferson descendants, holds a gathering in May at his Monticello estate in Virginia, and this year the organisation has invited more than 20 black people descended from the President's slave. The invitation was made after Lucian Truscott IV, a fifth-generation white Jefferson descendant, threatened to take the entire Hemmings family to the party on May 15. Mr Truscott said that, unless the black group is formally recognised, he will ask all white claimants to take a test to prove their own ancestry. "It's racist on its face. All black people their oral history is not enough, despite A. while automatically being the oral history of the likes like me," he said.

Beijing spy 'stole all US nuclear secrets'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

VIRTUALLY every nuclear weapon in the United States was compromised when a scientist suspected of spying for China transferred huge amounts of data from a secret computer system to an unclassified network, according to a report published yesterday. The transfers, discovered only last month, add a vast new dimension to the investigation of nuclear spying during which, according to the chairman of a congressional committee, the Chinese stole "the crown jewels" of America's nuclear arsenal and continue to do so. China denies the charges. Yesterday's report, in *The New York Times*, contained allegations that were said to have outraged politicians and intelligence officials. President Clinton ordered Bill Richardson, his Energy Secretary, who oversees nuclear weapons laboratories, to "get to the bottom of it". Officials said the transfers were made to a widely accessible computer network by Wen Ho Lee, 59, who was born in Taiwan and has worked since 1978 at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico. The report said that millions of lines of computer code, giving details of how America's nuclear warheads worked, were downloaded four to five years ago from a computer system that is open only to scientists with top-level security clearance at Los Alamos. There was said to be evidence that the files were accessed by someone improperly using a password after they were placed in the unclassified network. American officials feared that the files were then passed to Beijing, although an Energy Department official said this remained uncertain. Experts said the data would be useful to any nuclear power trying to copy US designs. The information contained the "legacy" codes used to design nuclear weapons, analyse nuclear test results and evaluate the safety of warheads. In addition, Mr Lee allegedly transferred the "input" data for specific warheads. Ray Kidder, a nuclear weapons physicist at another laboratory, said that, taken together, the legacy code and the input data were the equivalent of a scientific blueprint that could be "reverse-engineered" to give a complete plan of the explosive part of the weapon. Another scientist said that the information was not by itself sufficient to produce an exact copy of an American weapon, but it could be of considerable value to a country such as China, which has signed the nuclear test ban treaty and relies on computer simulations to upgrade its nuclear arsenal. The FBI was already investigating whether Mr Lee passed information to Beijing in the 1980s, enabling China to design a replica of America's most advanced nuclear warhead, the W-88 used in Trident submarines. He was sacked from Los Alamos seven weeks ago, but denies wrongdoing. In a potentially embarrassing twist to the case, his wife, Sylvia, a former secretary at Los Alamos, was identified this week as having been an FBI informant. She helped agents to monitor Chinese scientists visiting the laboratory.

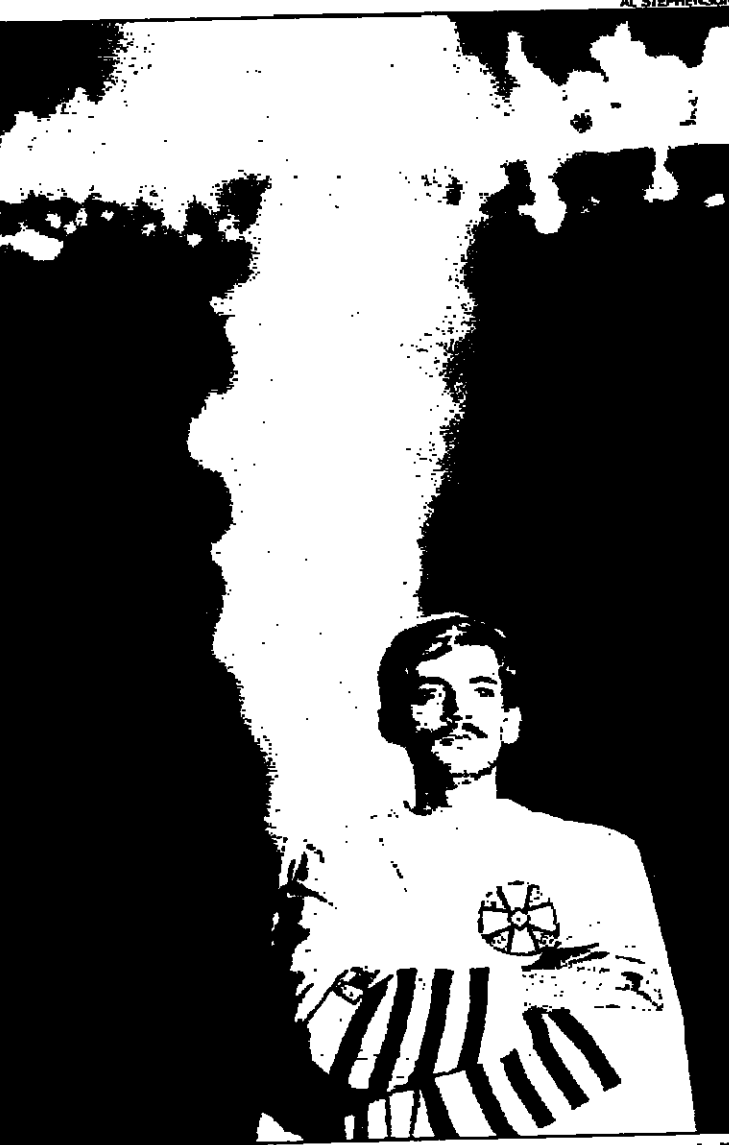


Duke in Baton Rouge, where he entered the race for Congress

Political dinosaur revisits Southern swamp

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN AMITE, LOUISIANA

A PREHISTORIC political creature has re-emerged from Louisiana's swamps in a last effort to win power. David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, perennial candidate and torch-bearer for America's white supremacists, is running for a House of Representatives seat. Some 50 people — mostly men, all white — have assembled in a humid hut on the edge of the bayou to hear an angry sermon that might have wafted back from the Deep South of four decades ago. "This country was founded by white Christians. Our heritage is at stake. We're being outvoted and outnumbered in our own communities... people have been raped, murdered, assaulted, robbed. Blacks commit ten times more violent crimes than whites. 1,000 per cent more rapes." Mr Duke rants, as his audience nods and grumbles. Outside, fireflies skitter among rows of rusty pickups with "Duke for Congress" bumper stickers decrepit



Duke refers to his Ku Klux Klan years variously as a mistake or a thrill

vehicles carrying decrepit, second-hand thoughts. Mr Duke, 48, is a hangover from the past with no hope of winning, according to opponents. Yet his candidacy has sent a nasty shiver through the Republican Party, already embarrassed at having to fill a seat vacated by Robert Livingston, the House Speaker-designate who resigned during the Lewinsky scandal over sexual "indiscretions". Louisiana's election rules, a broad field of candidates, and Mr Duke's lingering appeal, mean that he cannot be ignored. Seven Republicans, of whom he is one, are competing for the seat along with two Democrats. If, as expected, none wins an outright majority in Saturday's primary vote, then the two frontrunners will go through to a runoff on May 29; if the Republican vote is sufficiently fragmented, there is an outside chance that Mr Duke may slip through. That prospect, however distant, is sufficiently scary to have persuaded the Republican Congressional Committee in Washington to commission a private survey to see if it should step in and endorse another candidate. Polls show Mr Duke running behind three other Republicans including a wealthy ophthalmologist from New Orleans with the alarming name, given recent US history, of Monica Monica. The front-runner is David Treen, a party veteran and former Governor of Louisiana. Mr Duke's hopes are pinned firmly on the hardly flattering assumption that those who support him will be too ashamed to admit it to pollsters. In 1991 he drew 55 per cent of the white vote when running for governor, after grabbing nearly 60 per cent of white votes in a Senate poll the year before. A huge turnout of black voters scuppered both attempts and his star has faded since. But Dukedom remains a dark and overgrown corner of Louisiana, fed on a rich compost of paranoia and prejudice. In an autobiography, *My Awakening*, published earlier this year, Mr Duke called for an Aryan revolution and offered the familiar mixture of Holocaust denial and plans for re-



Supporters are assumed to be too ashamed to confess to pollsters

newed racial segregation. But it is his simpler philosophy, in which every complaint is hung on the error of racial mixture, that has his Amite listeners punching the fetid air. The Colorado massacre: "Diversity is what caused this shooting." Kosovo: "What about the invasion of Mexico? Bring the troops home to protect our American borders." (Applause) The media: "They try to make you feel guilty for your white European heritage." The future: "Whites will be a minority..." (Yells). If the podium Mr Duke cuts a different, more plausible figure. His talk of tax cuts, the rights of gun ownership and the decline of Christian morality could come from any mainstream conservative, a fact that brings mainstream conservatives out in a cold sweat. "Duke is trying to hijack the legitimate conservative agenda," the right-wing *Washington Times* said this month. The former Klan chief, the object of a deportation order from Britain in 1978 when he came to address racist rallies and organise resistance to non-white immigration, is equally careful to finesse his past, sometimes describing his sheet-wearing days as a "mistake", but more often as a "thrill" of which he is not ashamed. After 25 years of active politics, nine attempts for office and only one success a decade ago when he briefly held a seat in the state legislature, Mr Duke says that this election will be his last. "We can win," he tells the audience. It fits this conspiratorial fantasy world to imagine that outside the hut exists a vast but silent body of Duke supporters who share the hate but will hide their views until polling day. "We always fly below the radar," says Ray Anderson, Duke's campaign manager. Alongside the highway running back to New Orleans, rotting trunks of broken trees loom out of a primeval mud. Extinction may be on hand, but here dinosaurs still roam.

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BALKANS WAR: CIVILIAN DEATHS

Nato regrets bombing error

Blair says atrocities by Milosevic far outweigh few Serb casualties, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

NATO offered its regrets yesterday after a laser-guided bomb lost its target "lock" and fell to the ground, killing up to 20 civilians and demolishing 50 homes 300 metres from the intended hit, a Yugoslav army barracks.

However, as the latest example of "collateral damage" gave Belgrade the opportunity to accuse Nato of a bombing outrage, Tony Blair went on the offensive, denouncing President Milosevic for his deliberate targeting of civilians. The Ministry of Defence joined in the damage-limitation exercise by distributing a map setting out the atrocities committed by the Serbs against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

The Prime Minister expressed regret over the deaths in the southern Serbian town of Surdulica, but he told the House of Commons that Nato was taking "every single precaution we possibly can" to avoid civilian deaths. It would be "the ultimate moral outrage" if Britain and the other members of Nato stood aside while Serb forces committed "appalling atrocities" and raped women "so badly they will never be able to have children".

Mr Blair told MPs: "We simply cannot know yet how many people Milosevic has butchered inside Kosovo, but I warn the House that it is going to be a very considerable number." The bomb that went astray should have hit the military barracks, which the Serbs claimed had been empty of troops for weeks, with laser-guided precision. Other Nato bombs on the same raid hit the target.

Defence sources said that the pilot of the Nato bomber, believed to have been an American F15E, had only seconds to decide whether to drop the bomb.

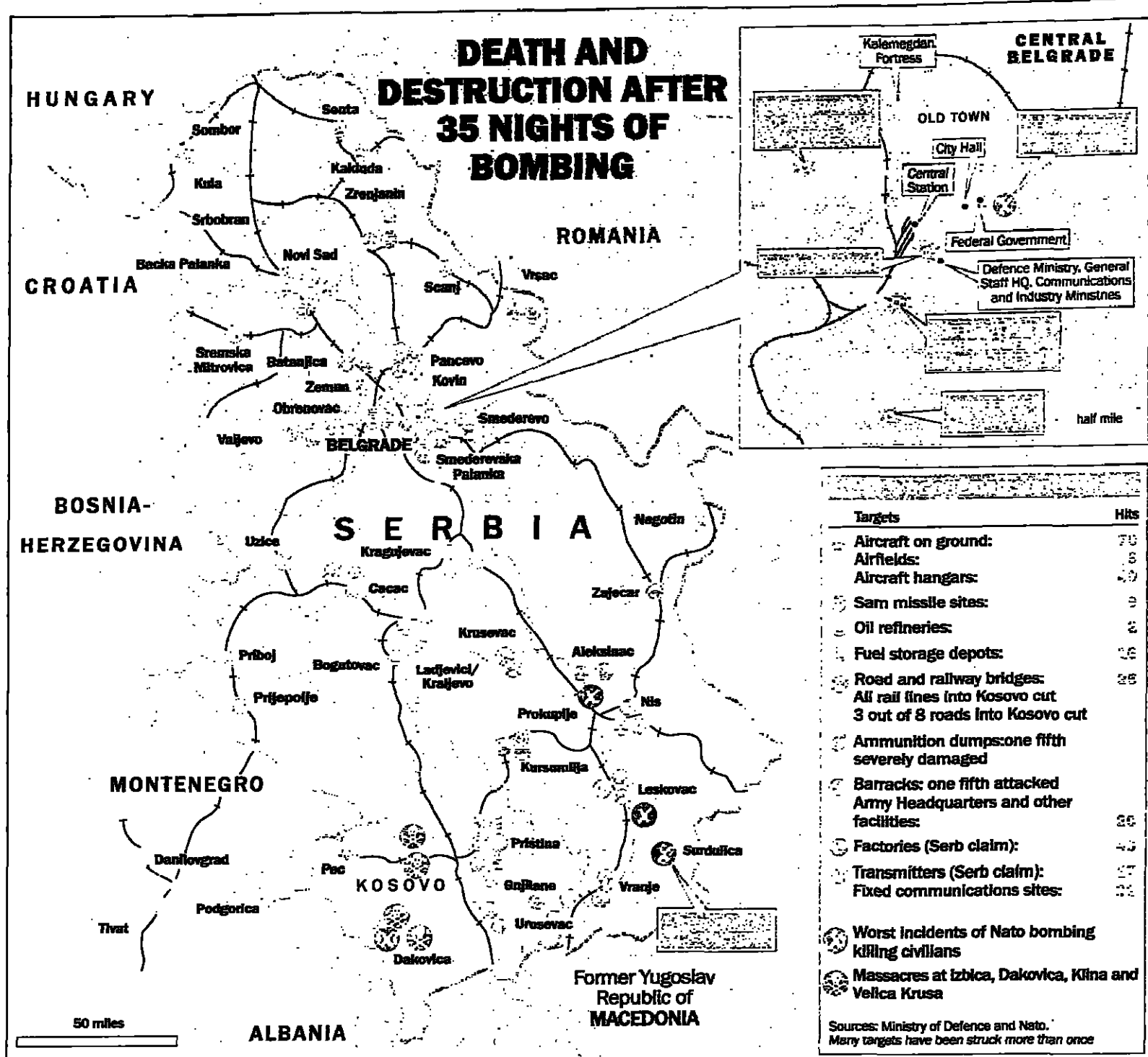
Although he needed to have a clear sight of the barracks be-

fore releasing the bomb down the laser beam reflected off the target, they said it was possible that dense smoke from the other weapons that had been dropped had obscured the target at the last moment, cutting off the laser link.

The only other explanation, the sources said, was that the guidance seeker head on the bomb was faulty. The bomb, believed to have been a 2,000lb deep-penetration weapon, hit a residential area. Witnesses said the Nato raid was between 12.10pm and 12.30pm on Tuesday.

Rescue workers said it was difficult to count the dead because most had been "blown to bits". At the town's hospital, medical staff were trying to reconstruct the bodies. Miroslav Stojiljkovic, Mayor of the town of 15,000 people, estimated that 600 houses had suffered some damage. Bulldozers were removing huge mounds of concrete rubble to help the search for survivors. Many of the victims in the town, which is about 200 miles south of Belgrade, were in their cellars waiting for the Nato raids to finish. Other laser-guided bombs have also gone astray during the first five weeks of Operation Allied Force, although comparatively few of the thousands of bombs dropped have missed their target completely. In one of the earliest raids, a bomb dropped by an RAF Harrier GR7 lost its way but fell on open ground.

The Prime Minister said that, despite the civilian deaths, he remained as determined as ever to continue the bombing campaign. The 20 deaths bring to nearly 100 the number of civilians officially acknowledged by Nato to have been killed. Between 65 and 75 Albanian refugees were killed when a convoy near Dakovica was hit, ten civilians died on a train cross-



ing a bridge near Leskovac, and 12 died after another bomb went astray at Aleksinac. The civilian death toll claimed by the Serbs, and supported by the Russians, is higher, but there is no way of validating their figures. They claim that more than 500 civilians have been killed since the bombing began, including ten in a residential area of Pristina, the Kosovo capital. The Serbs also claimed that 55 civilians were killed on the railway bridge near Leskovac, after initially reporting only ten.

There are increasing reports of injuries caused by the dropping of cluster bombs. Both the US Air Force and the RAF have been striking "soft targets", such as concentrations of troops and vehicles, with cluster munitions. There are reports of unexploded cluster bombs lying around in Kosovo. In a report from Pristina, in the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday, Rade Grbic, a surgeon at the town's main hospital, said that children had been playing with cluster bombs and had suffered appalling injuries. He was quoted as saying: "I

have been an orthopaedist for 15 years, working in a crisis region where we often have injuries, but neither I nor my colleagues have ever seen such horrific wounds as those caused by cluster bombs. The limbs are so crushed that the only option is amputation." The report said that 300 to 400 people, about half of the civilian, had been treated in Pristina's hospital for cluster bomb injuries since the Nato air campaign began on March 24. However, the Yugoslav Air Force has also been dropping Russian-made cluster bombs from low-flying aircraft. It is likely that some unexploded munitions are Yugoslav.

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Books, page 40

Sunny skies herald heavier attacks

BY MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Milosevic was given a clear warning yesterday that improving weather would enable Nato to launch an overwhelming number of airstrikes.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said that summer weather would make a huge difference to Nato's air campaign. "And summer is a coming," he said.

The weather forecasts had been wrong, he said. Earlier this week they predicted clear skies over Yugoslavia, yet it had been Bulgaria that enjoyed good weather. He said, however, that Yugoslavia "is a country in the South of Europe which has good summers".

The importance of the weather became apparent yesterday when clearer skies brought an intensification of raids. Southern districts of Belgrade were hit in several hours of bombing overnight. The state-run Tanjug news agency described it as a "massive onslaught".

Nato bombers also hit military targets in Montenegro, including an army communications relay station on Mount Crni Vrh and a Yugoslav airbase near Podgorica, the capital.

As the bombers flew over the Montenegrin port of Bar, which is to be the subject of a Nato oil embargo blockade, Yugoslav navy warships opened fire.

Other targets included two bridges, two fuel dumps, an army training centre, an army barracks in Belgrade and an army command post in Kosovo.

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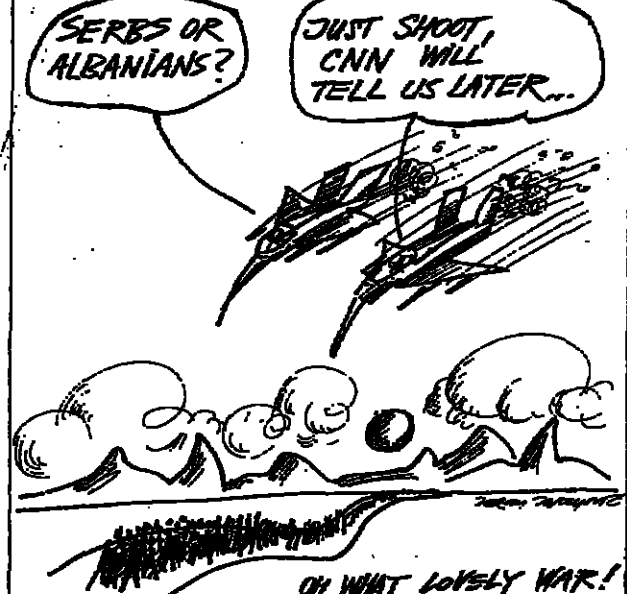
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The view from Belgrade, by the cartoonist Jovanovic

Congress disputes Clinton's right to wage war on Serbs

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

ARGUMENTS broke out on Capitol Hill yesterday over the costs of military action and President Clinton's authority to wage war and deploy ground troops, as the House of Representatives prepared to cast its first votes on the crisis since the air campaign began.

Two proposals — one demanding that the US declare war on Yugoslavia, the other that it pull out — were expected to fail, but a third, that would require Mr Clinton to obtain congressional approval before the deployment of ground forces, was gaining momentum with the backing of Republican leaders.

"This will hamstring our troops in the field," Congressman Martin Frost said as fellow Democrats issued a warning that such a move could even prevent the deployment of Apache helicopters against Serb units in Kosovo.

The White House found itself in the unexpected position of arguing that Congress was preparing to spend too much after Republicans said they were ready to double an emergency cost package but backed on a number of vote-winning military expenses not directly related to the Kosovo conflict. Mr Clinton told legislators

that he opposed Republican plans to double the \$5.9 billion (£3.7 billion) in emergency funding already requested to cover the operation's costs until September 30, but said he would accept a larger package including a military pay rise.

Congress should "resist the temptation" to add other military costs to the bill since this could cause a critical delay, Mr Clinton said.

Democrats accused Republicans of trying to use the military funding issue for domestic political advantage. "We're for winning this war, not ending it," a White House spokesman said.

The two resolutions calling for a full declaration of war or a troop pull-out were tabled by Tom Campbell, a Republican, citing the long-disputed US War Powers law which requires the President to obtain congressional approval to keep troops in combat for more than two months.

"We are at war and Congress has not declared war and that is unconstitutional," Mr Campbell said.

Under US law only Congress can declare war, but only the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, can order in troops.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Woman dies in protest explosion

Athens: The Revolutionary Nuclei group said it had carried out a bomb attack, in which a woman was killed, because of "the Nato murder of civilians" in Yugoslavia (John Carr writes). The explosion at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday night, hours before Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, was to open an economic conference there, comes amid hostility to Britain over its role in the action against Belgrade. Salonika, railworkers blocked a train taking British military vehicles to Macedonia.

Refugees flee to Italy

Gioia del Colle: More than 4,000 illegal immigrants fleeing the Kosovo conflict have landed on southern Italian shores in the past five days and the authorities reception centres for the new exodus of refugees to the Apulian region are close to collapse (John Phillips writes). On Tuesday alone, 1,400 people, most of them women and children, were dropped on the Salentine coast from speedboats and other small craft piloted by Albanian and Italian smugglers.

Kuwaitis raise £8.3m

Kuwait City: A live Kuwaiti television has raised £8.3 million for Kosovo refugees, Yusef al-Samir, the Information Minister, said. Several celebrities appeared on the television, dubbed "the day of solidarity with the people of Kosovo", to talk about the plight of Muslim Albanians in Kosovo. Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah has donated \$1 million (£637,000) on behalf of the al-Sabah family, and four planes loaded with urgent relief supplies were dispatched to Albania. (AFP)

Turkish troops parade

Ankara: A Turkish soldier mans a gun on a tank during a parade at Mamak Garrison on the outskirts of the capital yesterday by a unit that has been readied to take part in a possible Nato peacekeeping mission Kosovo. Some 1,000 soldiers supported by armoured personnel carriers and tanks are on standby, the military Turkey has 11 F16s participating in the campaign against Yugoslavia. (AP)

Fuel smugglers thrive

Sofia: Bulgarian motorists are enjoying a lucrative trade in smuggling petrol to Serbia as Nato considers an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. Customs officials at the Bregovo border in car tanks, concealed cans and soft-drink bottles. Serbs pay \$1 (62p) per litre for the fuel, which costs about 44 cents (27p) in Bulgaria. (AP)

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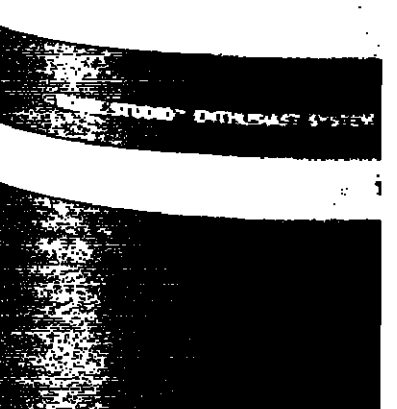
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BALKANS WAR: VICTIMS OF MILOSEVIC

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GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

Stop talking, Margaret

Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington: once, when she was explaining to President Reagan the stance that America should take on an issue, Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, slipped her a note saying: "Margaret, you're talking too much"

In the fourth extract from his memoirs, George Walden describes how Parliament, the Tories and the country all realised that it was time for Margaret Thatcher to step down

My first impression of Margaret Thatcher was positive: there was absolutely no side to this woman. She treated officials like fully fledged human beings who (at that stage of her premiership) were allowed their say. Foreign Office flannel, you learnt quickly, was unwelcome. As you talked the electric blue eyes bored into you as if probing for insincerities or fuzzy thinking. I liked the way she preferred plain speaking, even when she simplified things outrageously, and admired her "can-do" style. If you made your point with conviction and could prove you were right, she would take the argument while avoiding any appearance of doing so. Watching her in action it struck me that she was composed of two vital elements: strong passions and a sharp intelligence. The trick was to bring the two together.

Sometimes she would say to me, in tones of reproach: "George, you look tired!" I longed to reply: "That's because I am." Later I noticed how often she said the same to others. Sometimes her commiseration extended even to her ministers. In the middle of the talks on the future of Rhodesia, Lord Carrington (then Foreign Secretary) went to secure her agreement to a crucial point. It was a Saturday afternoon, and we had flown in that morning from the ends of the earth.

She listened while Carrington made his case, and she steered herself for the usual battle. When he had finished all she said was: "You both look exhausted. Have you had lunch?" We hadn't. "Come upstairs and have a bite. The servants have gone but I'll make you scrambled eggs." Keener to secure her agreement than to savour her eggs, Carrington declined. The solicitude then evaporated while the point was thrashed out mercilessly, and finally agreed. Carrington took me off to a late lunch at White's, by way of celebration.

As a minister I was to see that there was another psychology at work in all this talk of other people's tiredness. What she was saying was that you were a man, she was a woman, you were a junior, she was Prime Minister, and yet, unlike you, she was never tired. Though she rarely looked it, with her blue clothes and pink glowing skin, like a Barbara Cartland confection, this of course was untrue. She was often worn out. You could tell when she needed sleep be-

cause, like humbler mortals in a similar state, she talked too much. One person who was allowed to point out this self-evident truth was Denis Thatcher. A model political consort, though not lacking views of his own (they were uncannily close to John Wells's "Dear Bill" letters), he never intervened in policy discussions, reserving his authority for strategic moments. In the middle of an endless discussion over whisky sodas at 1 or 2am in Washington, Tokyo or Bonn, when Carrington and I were aching for sleep, Denis would suddenly announce: "Bed, Margaret!" like a publican calling time. And to bed she would go.

In international meetings the compulsive talking could be an embarrassment. During a meeting with President Reagan, who was neither as articulate nor as well briefed as herself, Thatcher was explaining at length the line America should be taking, while Reagan sat listening, his jar of gum-gums on the table, smiling his screen smile. All at once Thatcher shut up. Surprised at the sudden silence, I raised an eyebrow at Carrington, who passed me a note he had slipped in front of her. It read: "Margaret, you're talking too much."

It is hard to imagine a minister but him saying it, or Thatcher reacting as she did. When Carrington and Willie Whitelaw left the Cabinet and she became more confident, not to say autocratic, no one would have dared.

My experience as a diplomat, then an MP, led me to form my own conclusions about our foreign policy under Thatcher. The common view was that she despised the Foreign Office and persistently disregarded its advice was largely myth — one later to be encouraged and exploited by Thatcher herself. While ensuring that she was portrayed as being at permanent loggerheads with her diplomats, in reality she went quietly along with almost every recommendation on every big decision on foreign policy that arose.

It was Thatcher who said you never negotiated with terrorists, and it was she who spoke warmly of the services to peace and reconciliation of Robert Mugabe, the Marxist and ex-terrorist leader, after he had become the first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. In Hong Kong it was Thatcher who opened up the question of the post-1997 future of the colony with the Chinese Government, even though she had brandished the 1841 treaties during a visit to Tokyo to prove that Victoria Island belonged to us in perpetuity. And it was she who signed the agreement with China giving Hong Kong back to them three years later.

In the Middle East it was she who agreed to the European Community's policy of opening a dialogue with the PLO. More talking to terrorists. It was she who agreed to a lease-back arrangement over the Falklands with Argentina, whose rejection by Parliament was to lead to war. Sedulously disseminated rumours that she had been against the proposal all along made no difference. The fact is she endorsed it, when she could have stopped it in its tracks by saying "No, no, no!"

Then there was Thatcher's stance on communism. In the Cold War she was not a good American policy, but a restraint. The Iron Lady spent much time prevailing on President Reagan to tone down his Star Wars plans, while giving the impression that she stood shoulder to shoulder with him on every East-West issue. And when Reagan struck out on his own, stumbling towards a ban on all nuclear weapons in his meeting with Gorbachev at Reykjavik, which in the unlikely event of an agreement would have left East and West disarmed and the world free for Saddam Hussein and his ilk, she was horrified.

As for Europe, it was she who signed the Single European Act and took Britain into the ERM on the advice of her Chancellor and Foreign Secretary, forbearing once again to say "No, no, no!" If the Cabinet was weighted against her, and if Britain's sovereignty and in-



Margaret Thatcher with Denis and her daughter Carol

dependence were at stake, as she later claimed, why did she not resign? There can be little doubt that, had she been in office, she would have signed the Maastricht agreement, too, albeit under protest, and with the same opt-outs Major was to achieve. The one occasion on which she did not follow the diplomatic advice of the day — to accept the unification of Germany with as good a grace as we could as a *fait accompli* — she was seen as dangerously out of touch with reality, a perception that had as much to do with her fall from power as the poll tax.

Idolaters of Thatcher as the only reliable guardian of Britain's interests face a conundrum. How was she brought, time and again, to do her diplomats' bidding? Either she was not perspicacious enough to see when she was being led by the nose by her officials (assuming she was) and was insufficiently strong-willed to resist, or she fell in with the "Foreign Office line" (say her Foreign Secretary's advice) because, as she was fond of saying in other contexts, there was no alternative.

As the 1987 election neared, my equivocal feelings about my future in politics grew. I did not see myself as an outstanding minister, not least because of a fatal inclination to see too many sides of a question. My real interests were cultural, and largely outside the reach of politicians. Uncertain which way to jump, I left things to the last moment. Just before the end of the campaign

I gave my secretary a letter to Thatcher saying I was resigning my ministerial job "for family and personal reasons", with instructions to get it to No 10 on the evening of the close of the polls, so as not to seem to

take my re-election for granted. Thatcher (I was told) did not understand the reasons for my resignation: had I tried to explain them to her, she would have understood even less. A No 10 lunch confirmed my impression that things were on the slide. There were six of us, including the Foreign Secretary, Geoffrey Howe, and the historian Hugh Thomas. Her strained relations with Howe were common knowledge, but on this occasion her contemptuous attitude towards him astonished me. I do not know what shocked me most: the way she treated him or his docile reaction. We were talking of Europe and different economic models. The slightest deviation from the Thatcher line and Geoffrey was slapped down. He lowered his head, got on with his lunch, then came doggedly back, to be slapped down again. These were not abusive arguments, but personal insults. When he hazarded a view about the workings of industry he was told that if he

knew so much about it, why didn't he go to work there? To speak to your Foreign Secretary in the way she did in private would have been had enough. To do so in front of myself and an outsider was extraordinary. She had reached the stage when no one dared tell her that she couldn't treat people like that. I wondered that Howe did not excuse himself and leave the room. In the event, his revenge was more dramatic. Watching him knife her in the back in his resignation speech in the Commons not long afterwards was like seeing a battered wife finally turn on a violent husband.

Somehow the fact that she had "lost it" communicated itself to the party at large. The way she went — Heseltine's challenge and the subsequent vote — was of limited importance. Her judgment was becoming erratic, and sooner rather than later she would have had to go. That she was toppled by a parliamentary cabal against the general senti-

ment of the party is a fantasy of the Right. MPs voted against her not just because she was endangering their chances of re-election, they threw her out because the constituency parties were losing faith in her, too. When I consulted my constituency party officers on how to vote in the leadership election in a public show of hands a majority came out in her favour. Later I talked to those who had supported her: in private three quarters said it was time for her to go. My guess is that in Parliament, the party and the country the view was the same.

● Extracted from *Lucky George* by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99; available to readers for £15, including p&p, from The Times Bookshop, 0950 134459

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TOMORROW

"If the Tories' laughter in the chamber annoyed John Prescott, he should have heard them in the tea room"

Time for the Iron Lady to go

Now she was out of office Denis seemed in higher spirits than ever, perpetually like a man who had just put down his first drink of the day. But his wife was a sad sight. From a distance she looked fine but close up, at cocktails or dinner, her mouth was pinched in a sort of purposeless determination, and her eyes had a faraway look, like an actress endlessly on the point of delivering her curtain speech.

Watching her made me think how easy it is for former Prime Ministers of the male sex to age gracefully, all of a piece, looking more and more distinguished with their balding pates, worldly-wise features and statesmanlike *embonpoint*. Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well and was reaching the age where her over-immaculate hair set off the ravages of her face. The result was an eerie dissonance between age and vitality. She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the evening, after her unimpeachable day; now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There



Goodbye to all that: Thatcher's last day at No 10 in 1991

was no arguing with her any more: in fact it was impossible to talk to her. The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she didn't know she was doing it. One evening, at a buffet dinner with an East European Prime Minister when she was on a drink-fuelled high,

I saw her was after I had announced that I was giving up my seat. She greeted me by gripping my hand, fixing me with her ancient mariner's eye, and saying with more regret than malice: "George, you've lost your soul." It was an uncomfortable moment. She had, after all, given me a chance in office. Somehow the chilled blue eyes made you feel like a lover who had unjustly abandoned her, and that she was right to chide you.

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Menzies, Mandy and marriage

Labour's Scottish success could benefit Ashdown's heir

It may come to be known as the Mandelson Effect, a formula whereby the addition of the words Peter Mandelson to any political speculation causes an immediate chemical reaction, a fizzing noise, lots of smoke and a powerful smell of rotten eggs.

A good example last week was the suggestion that Mr Mandelson had been brought in to advise Gordon Brown on the running of the Labour campaign in Scotland. Phew, what a stink! It was leapt on by rival parties as evidence that Downing Street was manipulating events north of the border. Charlie Whelan, another arch spin-doctor, reckoned that Mr Mandelson had planted the story himself to show that he was back in favour, although the evidence for this was so thin that it seems to have been oxidised in the process.

Now a few more particles of Mandelson have been scattered on to an already combustible amalgam of rumour and innuendo, which could blow up in the faces of the Liberal Democrats. According to Donald Macintyre's new biography of Mr Mandelson, a secret meeting took place in the Hampstead home of Lord Irvine of Lairg, while Labour was in opposition, to hammer out a long-term pact with the Lib Dems. It was attended by Tony Blair, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Lord Irvine and, possibly, Gordon Brown, for Labour, and Paddy Ashdown, Robert MacLennan, Archie Kirkwood and Lord Holme of Cheltenham for the Lib Dems. An accord designed to secure the centre ground of British politics was drawn up. It included a deal to consider voting reform at Westminster, for the parties to lay off each other in the election campaign, and to form a coalition at Holyrood if Labour failed to secure an overall majority.

As soon as the story flared up, everyone turned and ran. Mr Dewar denied categorically that there had been any such deal. "I conducted no discussions with the Liberal Democrats nor have I any arrangements which predated this campaign," he said, though he did not deny that meetings had taken place. Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said he knew nothing about it. And Alex Salmond, for the Scottish National Party, dashed off a furious letter to Messrs Blair and Ashdown demanding to know whether the meeting had taken place and, if so, what had been agreed.

It now emerges that there was such a meeting, indeed there may have been more than one. But, according to the Lib Dems, it was about something else. The party's campaign director in Scotland, Michael Moore, MP, said the meetings were held only to discuss proportional representation, that they resulted in the so-called Cook-MacLennan agreement on voting reform, and this was a matter of public record. It had nothing to do with the Scottish party, which was independent; its policy was decided in Scotland not London. That was that.

I doubt if the explanation is

quite so innocent; the Mandelson Effect does not really work like that, and how Mr Moore can be so certain is not clear. The evidence would appear to run the other way. The Scottish campaign has indeed seen an absence of any real attacks by Labour against the Lib Dems, and, as the SNP challenge has faded, the idea of a coalition has become firmly embedded. That may not sound dramatic, but to have the strategy decided in London, and so far in advance, could affect not just the Lib Dems' status in a Scottish government, but the party's future direction, and the outcome of its leadership contest.

The conventional wisdom thus far has been that Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Inverness West, is well ahead in the undeclared campaign to succeed Mr Ashdown. Mr Kennedy, who is at best lukewarm about closer co-operation with Labour, is said to have grassroots support and to command the backing of party activists. But in London, the odds have been altering steadily in favour of Menzies Campbell, MP for North East Fife, and a supporter of the alliance.

The key influence here is no longer Mr Ashdown, but Tony Blair. Whatever the status of those meetings in Derry Irvine's house, it is no secret that the Prime Minister wants to cement a permanent relationship with the Lib Dems. He sees it as a key component of his aim to capture the centre ground of British politics and hold it against Tory incursion for the next generation. Co-opting the Lib Dems on to a key Cabinet committee was one part of this. The chemistry between him and Mr Ashdown, who shared

the vision, was another. Whether Mr Blair will eventually agree to pay the ultimate price of proportional representation to secure the Lib Dems' long-term support remains to be seen, but he is bound to favour a Lib-Lab pact in a Scottish parliament. It is a sort of dry-run for what might some day be a reality at Westminster.

The fall in the SNP's fortunes has fatally undermined those on the Lib Dem Left, who at one time favoured a deal with the nationalists, and is likely to aid those like Mr Campbell who advocate a continuing alliance with Labour. The Lib Dems' salvation, say the strategists, does not lie in taking it to the Left, but in shoring up the centre ground. The understanding with Labour may have to be more hard-nosed, but it will continue. Of course, all talk of a pact will be denied, particularly by the Scottish protagonists from both parties. But the deal is there, and it will be carried forward.

The only problem is the Mandelson Effect. It is so volatile that it can blow up just when you least expect it. It only takes someone to light the tins canister, give the test tube a couple of shakes, and the whole compound starts hissing and bubbling again.

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Magnus Linklater



Dr Toughlove

or How I stopped worrying and learnt to love the Third Way

When I lived in the United States in the 1980s, in the heyday of Thatcherism and Reaganomics, I knew a firebrand of a left-wing politician from Texas (yes, you can find any human oxymoron somewhere in America if you look hard enough). He had a characteristically colourful phrase for the futile, wishy-washy politics being advocated by centrist Southern Democrats such as Bill Clinton: "Bolks in Texas know that there's nothing in the middle of the road except a white line and a dead armadillo."

I thought about this remark in Washington last Sunday, as I sat in the audience at one of President Clinton's famous "seminars" on the politics of the future, this one called "The Third Way: progressive governance for the 21st century". Tony Blair was the principal supporting actor with Gerhard Schröder of Germany, Massimo D'Alema of Italy and Wim Kok of The Netherlands as guest stars. It was easy to sympathise with the cynicism expressed by my Texan friend, as the President lobbed ludicrously soft-ball "questions" about "opportunity, responsibility and community" at the other four leaders, who smugly responded with long strings of clichés about technology, the social contract, globalisation and "the new Left's voyage of rediscovery".

But whereas cynicism is a perfectly healthy reaction to ideological fashions, and intellectual superiority helps to maintain the dignity of media commentators while simultaneously flattering their readers, the question that now seems worth asking is whether cynicism is an adequate response to a movement that has transformed the political world. Whatever may be said about the Third Way's intellectual content, leftist leaders now head six out of the seven main advanced capitalist countries and 13 of the 15 states of the European Union. Not even at the peak of the Conservative ascendancy in the late 1980s could the Right claim either the ideological unity or the global sway represented by the five leaders on the platform in Washington on Sunday.

As if to emphasise and confirm this global victory, the slogans of the Third Way are now being adopted by right-wing oppositions around the world. In Britain, the Tories may be tying themselves in knots as they try to disentangle themselves from the unpopular individualism, social Darwinism and market fun-

damentalism of the Thatcher years, but the Republicans in the United States seem to be making a much smoother transition to Clinton-style rhetoric. Supporters of George W. Bush, the Republican front-runner for the presidency, now openly tout him as a "Third Way politician". His hard-right detractors deride his "compassionate Conservatism" as exactly the kind of self-contradictory slogan that typifies the ideological vacuum of the Third Way.

All right, I hear you say in exasperation, tell us what all this rhetoric really means. Until last week, I would at this point have changed the subject or conveniently run out of space. But at the Washington seminar I had a revelation. I think I began to understand what the Third Way was about. I was struck by the contrast between the confident body language of these relaxed and good-humoured politicians and the extraordinary caution of their slogans. These were carefully balanced to satisfy conflicting political passions and remove all offence — "freedom and fairness", "rights and responsibilities", "compassion and self-reliance", "economic opportunity and social justice", "global economy and local community".

Winning support, avoiding unnecessary controversy and seeking compromise are obvious hallmarks of this new politics, but there is more to it than that. Mr Blair, Mr Clinton and the others in Washington did not get where they were by shrinking from political battles. They have all been pugnacious and successful political bruisers. Neither have they lacked intellectual self-confidence. On the contrary, the new Third Way leaders seem surprisingly certain that, with enough intelligence, effort and goodwill, it should be possible to solve or at least manage all the world's problems, from crime and unem-

ployment in inner cities to massacres in Kosovo.

As Mr Blair actually said at one point in Washington: "History does not set problems that humanity cannot solve." The others expressed the same basic view a little more circumspectly. In Herr Schröder's words, "the new politics is about discovering the right solutions not through ideology but through intelligent experimentation" or, as Mr Clinton put it more succinctly, "what we believe in is what works".

As I listened to these bold assertions, it dawned on me that the distinguishing feature of the new left-of-centre politicians is their extraordinary self-confidence, not the ideological timidity of which they often stand accused. It is true these people are ideologically rootless pragmatists who borrow shamelessly from their opponents' principles and ideas. But this pragmatism does not necessarily reflect weakness.

It is true that the Third Way's key selling point is that it tries to move beyond the contradictions of the old Left, which is politically unelectable, and the old Right, which is morally unacceptable. But when faced with a contradiction, there are two ways that a politician can respond.

The obvious way is to try to find a compromise that offers some sop to supporters of the two contradictory positions. This is the spineless kind of pragmatism, sometimes called "triangulation", of which new Left leaders, especially Mr Clinton, are usually accused: raise the minimum wage but leave more people without health insurance; ban a few sub-machineguns but do nothing about gun control; bomb Kosovo but don't risk a land invasion.

But there can sometimes be another, more imaginative way to deal with contradictory political demands. Instead of just striking a compromise between two opposing positions, it may be possible to

reconcile the contradictions; instead of simply splitting the difference, a political leader can look for practical measures, and ultimately perhaps new ways of thinking, that move beyond the contradictory demands. In old-style Marxist language, which Third Way supporters would not, of course, dream of using, their movement seems to be a synthesis between the thesis of free-market conservatism and the antithesis of old-style socialism, rather than a messy compromise.

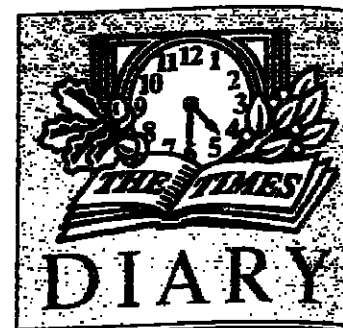
If one makes the leap of faith required to listen with sympathy, rather than derision, to the claims made by the modern left-of-centre politicians, it is this faith in finding practical solutions that reconcile and synthesise opposing forces that seems to characterise the Third Way. Instead of simply accepting the contradiction between economic prosperity and social justice, the Third Way proponents believe they can design policies to improve both economic growth and income distribution. Instead of simply offering the electorate a choice between lower taxes and better public services, they claim to be able to deliver both. Instead of making a choice between better education and more selection, they promise that both can be achieved. Instead of simply choosing between cutting welfare benefits and supporting more unproductive welfare scroungers, they say they can design policies that will force more people to work, yet offer better support to the genuinely needy.

Of course, when put in such general terms, the Third Way claims may sound dishonest and unrealistic. But it is in their detailed practical effects, not in their general philosophy, that the Third Way's policies will have to be judged. And unlike many politicians of the older generation, it is when they discuss the practical details of their policies that many of the new leaders really come to life. It remains to be seen whether the Third Way's confidence in its own cleverness turns out to be justified. To Conservatives, who are naturally sceptical about collective action, the Third Way's faith in the possibilities of efficient government seems hopelessly over-optimistic. But in this optimistic era, the efforts of the Right to redefine a genuine Conservative ideology seem even more hopeless.

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Anatole Kaletsky



Earl blues

SECRETS of Earl Spencer's marriage to the lovely Victoria could be aired in court, much to the old boy's chagrin. While relieved that he will not have to give evidence during his former wife's bitter court battle with her previous divorce lawyers, he is concerned that the case will wreck their confidentiality deal when Victoria graces the stand.

The countess, awarded 1.8 million big ones in her South African divorce, is suing lawyers for £1.6 million. "It's rather unfair," I am told. "I dare say the earl is not delighted by his marriage being dragged through the courts again."

Last time, small-minded gossips were treated to details of the earl's distractions with Sally Ann Lawson and a Chantal Collopy.

FOR those in search of God: the great deity can now be e-mailed at God@down.cam.ac.uk. This gets one through to His local representative, the chaplain of Downing College, Cambridge. Bruce Kinsey, "Some Christians have a sense of humour," bristles my man with the harp. "It's an easy address. No one forgets it."

GOOD to see that Harold Pinter has not lost touch with his rough and radical roots. While theatre-goers enjoyed the first night of his light entertainment, *The Birthday Party* (granted a strange West End revival), our Harold was absent. Now I know why. He and his other half, Lady Antonia Fraser, found themselves at high table with Emma Rothschild and other recluses at Trinity College, Cambridge. Not that the cast was too distressed. I ran into the splendid Prunella Scales afterwards, who had clearly benefited from Pinter's unique theatrical analysis. "He came to watch when it was on the road in Richmond," she says. "I fear it was far too early in the run."



THE "it girl" phenomenon has just been taken to its logical conclusion: so perhaps its practitioners can now quit the party scene and retire to Gloucestershire with a bar-load of Fulham estate agents. One of their number, Cat de Rham, is throwing a photo exhibition — consisting entirely of self-portraits. Blair's gallery says "the artist, in the honesty of her quest, bravely chose to shoot herself naked". While I admire such brave honesty, dear reader, please be content with this more modest work (above).

RUNNING into Ken Livingstone in his favoured Mayfair club the other day, I was taken aside to hear that he has won over the former Deputy PM, Michael Heseltine. "He said he wanted to get 'Tories for Livingstone' badges made," said Red Ken. Strangely, Hezza has a different take, calling Tony Blair's bete noire "one of the greatest jokes of modern times".



ROBERT MAXWELL is enjoying the dizzy heights of power. The old rogue's chopper — which used to land on the MGN office emblazoned with his lion logo — now flies ministers. The French Squirrel, based at RAF Northolt, boasts Bob's extra large seat, handy for fuller-figured ministers such as John Prescott. But they may feel Cap'n Bob's presence a little unnerving, as he was not renowned for his successful travel exploits.

MINUS his broken exhaust, Peter Mandelson has now found a new mode of transport — the Tube.

HUGH GRANT, nicknamed "Floppin" in *Notting Hill*, really does have a complex about his long locks. For promotion photo shoots, he was so worried about his hair that he had to drink three lagers and play Duke Ellington to relax.

JASPER GERARD

'Jill Dando's murder seems to be the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness'

Mick Hume

The murder of Jill Dando is a tragedy for her family, friends and colleagues, a genuine shock to many other people, and a legitimate news story. So why can't we leave it at that?

Why does what should be a moment for private grief have to be elevated into a semi-state occasion, complete with appearances from the Queen and President Blair? The orgy of emotionalism can tell us little about the life of the blameless Miss Dando. Her brutal murder appears to have become the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness.

Many have tried not just to report her death, but to sanctify her life, trying to endow an apparently inexplicable murder with some deeper meaning. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, set the tone for the media coverage

when he told the Commons that Miss Dando "had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role, not least in *Crimewatch UK*". In yesterday's *Times*, Valerie Grove concurred that "Because she stood bravely in the studio appealing for help in solving crime, Miss Dando stood for right versus wrong". The article also compared her televised launch of the Kosovo appeal to the anti-mine campaigning of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Posthumous attempts to depict Miss Dando as a symbol of Good fuelled the speculation that her death may have been an act of revenge by the forces of Evil. The front-page headline in Tuesday's *Express* — "Was she killed by a hitman?" — was topped by the banner headline on Wednesday's *Daily Mail*: "Was Jill killed by a Serb gunman?"

When emotionalism rushes in

the door, perspective goes out of the window. No doubt Miss Dando was a warm and charming woman. But she was also an archetypal celebrity: somebody who is famous largely for being famous, rather than for what they have done. As a television presenter who "stood bravely in the studio", she was no more responsible for solving crimes or saving Kosovo refugees than her friend Desmond Lynam is to blame for the football results.

Everybody from Julie Burchill to the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare, Miss Dando's home town, has rushed to compare her to the late Diana. "Goodbye to an English rose" read one of the floral tributes outside Miss Dando's Fulham house. And while Tony Blair just stopped short of repeating his eulogy to Diana,

Sue Carroll of *The Mirror* did it for him. "If Diana was the People's Princess," she told us, "Jill was the People's Presenter."

Miss Dando was clearly no Diana, more Tesco Metro than Harvey Nicks. Yet those trying to recreate the morbid effusion whipped up after the death of the Princess insist that they were both like "the girl next door". Where "ordinary people" loved Diana for her vulnerability and insecurity, Jill was admired for what one former boss called her "extraordinary ordinariness".

At one time, being weak might have been thought a reason for not getting the Hollywood treatment. Now it is a telling sign of our unheroic age that we should be encouraged to admire and emulate a Princess who called herself "as thick as a plank" and

a celebrity who once described herself as "Jill Blando".

The media must take their share of responsibility for encouraging much of the copycat mawkishness. The response of some journalists and broadcasters has gone way beyond the understandable sense of shock and loss at the murder of one of their own. Both the BBC and ITN produced special half-hour programmes within hours of Miss Dando's death — something they never managed for the outbreak of war in the Balkans.

Yet the media are not ultimately to blame. Many people seem only too willing to be injected with another dose of mourning sickness. At a time when people feel disengaged from the old institutions that once held them together, public displays of mourning for a Diana, a Linda McCartney

or a Jill Dando (complete with the new rituals of flower-laying, condolence-book signing, etc) have become rare opportunities to show some social solidarity.

Respect the grief of the bereaved, but don't indulge the rest of the circus. People may exhibit strong feelings during mourning sickness, but for most they are ersatz emotions, directed at people they did not know for reasons of which they are unsure. As Dr Oliver James said of the tears for Diana, "whilst the sincerity of the feelings are undoubted, their authenticity is not".

Meanwhile, in Belgrade, they drag the body of an ordinary, innocent make-up lady from the rubble of the Serbian equivalent of BBC Television Centre. No tears or TV specials for her.

The author is Editor of LM magazine. lm@informinc.co.uk

NO PRESENT ALTERNATIVE

But Hague must take personal command of his policy review

In the immediate aftermath of Peter Lilley's address last week William Hague proclaimed proudly that his deputy had "slayed the myth" that Conservatives were bent on the outright privatisation of key public services. There has been slaughter aplenty in Conservative circles over the past few days: Mr Hague's interpretation of events continues to appear extremely optimistic. The Tory leader did, however, take the opportunity of a speech last night to offer the sort of language on public-private partnerships that had been adopted by Mr Lilley, might have rendered his lecture mercifully uncontroversial. This may help to staunch his party's wounds.

There are certain other myths surrounding this sorry saga that still need exploding. The first is the myth that the Tories are entering the final days of Mr Hague's tenure. There is a hothouse atmosphere in Westminster at present. It will be reinforced by the latest MORI poll for *The Times* which shows that Tory support has slumped again and that, by a margin even greater than that in the electorate as a whole, their remaining voters are dissatisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

But a palace coup cannot take place with a credible alternative monarch.

Kenneth Clarke remains an effective performer whose views on the single currency make it impossible for him to serve as leader. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, may have been a contender six months ago but the refusal of his much-heralded recession to appear has damaged his standing. He has also hurt himself by backing Mr Lilley within the Shadow Cabinet. Michael Portillo is not an MP and any attempt to create a by-election to boost his candidature, history suggests, is doomed to failure. There is no realistic alternative to Mr Hague as leader.

A slightly different dilemma exists with regard to Mr Lilley. The most superficially obvious way in which the Conservatives could recapture the intellectual and political credibility lost last week would be for him to offer his resignation. This would be justified by the cavalier fashion in which he has treated his colleagues, both in the content of his argument and in assessing its consequences. But if Mr Lilley departed because of the dissent over his speech, the Labour Party could cheerfully portray his fall as the price that a Tory politician pays for uttering approving words about the NHS. This could be an even worse public relations disaster. There is thus at present no realistic alternative to Mr Lilley as deputy leader.

Nor will matters be improved by a change of party chairman. Three weeks ago Mr Hague could have still elevated Mr Portillo, by far the most attractive option, to that position. To turn to a potential rival now would look like an act of desperation. It would be easier to revisit this scenario if the Conservatives made unexpectedly strong gains in next week's elections. But if that happened, Mr Hague might conclude that he had no need to summon Mr Portillo to his rescue. There is thus little realistic chance that Mr Portillo can become Conservative Party chairman.

None of this means that Mr Hague should simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissipate. Profound damage has been done and corrective measures need to be taken. His policy document, *Action for Britain*, scheduled for publication in September, has assumed increased importance. That text cannot afford to be late, vacuous, or timid. Mr Hague has effectively surrendered that process to Mr Lilley and this has been an unambiguous example of failed leadership. The Conservative leader needs to take personal charge of his policy review and drive it through to completion. He cannot afford to assume that there will be no realistic alternative to his continued command for ever.

Yours etc.
K. CHAPMAN,
9 Hedgecourt Place,
Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ.
April 24.

From Professor Emeritus
D. Cameron Watt
Sir, As a member of the generation that "learned their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generation as they are of the views in the country generally.

Presenting the Orwell awards for political journalism on March 30, Baroness Williams of Crosby made one of the strongest statements in support of British policy over Kosovo I have heard. A radical journalist present said to me: "No one in our generation, remembering what we saw and learnt in Europe after the war, could stand by and watch what is happening in Kosovo today without doing something." He, I and Baroness Williams were all Oxfordshire, vintage 1948.

Much the same image of generational solidarity emerged during the public debate of 1989-91 over the war crimes legislation; though here it was confronting our elders led by Lord Shawcross, the late Lord Beloff and others.

Yours sincerely,
D. CAMERON WATT
(Professor Emeritus of International History),
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.
April 26.

From Dr C. Storer
Sir, Day by day the media carry growing reports of children from Kosovo who have been separated from parents and of husbands who have been separated from wives, raising the question of whether the families can ever be reunited. Those concerned do not even know whether their loved ones are alive or dead, nor which country survivors may be in.

You carried an item on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database on the Internet (article, *Interface*, November 11, 1998; report, *January 22*). Using that database, one can obtain details such as location of grave or memorial of any one of the millions of Commonwealth casualties from wars this century. It took me less than five minutes to locate an individual record, and I am an Internet novice.

Could not the Government construct a similar database carrying the name and previous address in Kosovo of all refugees seeking relatives? Presumably this could be built so that refugees could enter their own details as well as search for records of loved ones. Setting up such a database might cost less than one cruise missile.

If the Government does not start the project, I offer my services for data input if one of your readers volunteers to construct the website.

Yours faithfully,
C. C. STORER,
Depping, Bevil Road,
Parkgate, South Wiltal L64 6RR.
crist@storer.freeserve.co.uk
April 28.

From Mr Robert Russell
Sir, Dr Alan Shrank (letter, April 26) accuses politicians advocating performance-related pay for teachers of pursuing policies "abandoned by those who have introduced them in the past", and claims that commerce is disenchanted with this policy.

Is he suggesting that employers should pay staff for simply turning up to work?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. RUSSELL,
The Granary,
Bates Farm, Wittersham,
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PL.
April 26.

Nato and plight of hapless Kosovans

From Group Captain
Keith Chapman, RAF (ret'd)

Sir, The escalation of Nato's bombing campaign to include soft civilian targets such as the TV station in Belgrade (report, April 24) is not only a measure of its failure to achieve its original objectives, but also seriously undermines Nato's claim to the moral high ground.

Despite the propaganda and rhetoric coming from Brussels, Washington and Whitehall — including the optimistic assertion that Nato fortunes are set to improve dramatically with the deployment of US Apache helicopters (report, April 23) — the fact remains that bombing has done virtually nothing to alleviate the plight of the hapless Kosovo Albanians.

How many more missiles and bombs must be launched and how much more innocent blood must be shed before Nato's political leaders face up to the fact that they have dragged us into a war which no one can win? Common sense, if nothing else, cries out for an immediate end to the bombing and the simultaneous return of this complex problem to the only place where it can ultimately be resolved — the negotiating table.

Yours etc.
K. CHAPMAN,
9 Hedgecourt Place,
Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ.
April 24.

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D. Cameron Watt
Sir, As a member of the generation that "learned their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generation as they are of the views in the country generally.

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Yours faithfully,
R. C. RUSSELL,
The Granary,
Bates Farm, Wittersham,
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PL.
April 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Walden's 'donnish' political views

From Mr Russell Wood

Sir, I have always regarded George Walden [book extracts, April 26, 27 and 28] as someone who is a complete academic and who is absolutely out of place in the political world. All the politicians he condemns, compared to him, are true political animals.

For example, William Hague has a mastery of language in the House of Commons and easily outperforms Tony Blair. His reply to the Chancellor in the last Budget debate was absolutely outstanding. He is also an orator with Churchillian qualities of whom there have been very few since the war.

All of this, however, has been lost on the donnish George Walden.

Yours truly,
RUSSELL WOOD,
The White Cottage,
Chigwell Village, Essex IG7 6QB.
April 26.

From Mr J. McCubbin

Sir, The recollections of George Walden make terrific reading. The writing is pithy and chock-a-block with flavour. They are insightful and gossipy.

The most astounding insight, however, must be the ease with which Walden could be persuaded to troop to the voting chamber of John Major's office (April 26). That a man in high office, at the peak of his career, in the pay of the taxpayer, could be so cheaply won over against his better judgment is astonishing. That he claims it was because he was so squeamish about the other opponents of Maastricht beggars belief.

When he considered the consequences of a major treaty with such profound implications for the future sovereignty of the nation, in truth, weak-willed Walden was of no more service to the nation than the pager-worshipping backbenchers of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,
J. MCCUBBIN,
Sandown House, Bakewell Street,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 5HJ.
April 27.

Tories and free market

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, You report (April 26) Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, as saying: "In government we sometimes sounded as if we were only interested in markets... But someone suffering from cancer is a patient who wants to be cared for, not a customer within the internal market."

He seems to forget that in 1989, at the start of the Tory NHS reforms, every hospital doctor received a 15-page letter from Sir Duncan Nichol (then NHS Chief Executive) actually instructing all staff to look on all people using the NHS as "customers" — the word "patient" hardly appeared.

No one can be blamed if 15 pages of instruction stick in the memory rather longer than the occasional misunderstood comments of that Government, which he now seeks to correct as if they were just minor errors of presentation.

In 1987 I met William Hague for the first and only time: he seemed keen on the "internal market" for the NHS. A Tory decade of deliberate market policy in the NHS deserves a rather

From Professor P. B. Harris

Sir, George Walden's account of British politics circa 1997 may or may not be true, but in one respect it is caricature. As an observer of Hong Kong politics for 30 years I find his picture of Hong Kong under Chris Patten grotesquely inaccurate.

Walden sees a conflict between great forces, "democracy" (never explained in the Hong Kong context), and non-democracy. He refers to letters passed between the British and Chinese Governments as if these were the battleground of these rival ideologies. I see nothing more in these letters but a juggling of figures in a series of technical memoranda over the numbers of directly elected and functional constituency members in the final days of the colonial Legislative Council.

Chris Patten did not set out to introduce "democracy" in Hong Kong. He moved incrementally simply by working within the limits of the 1984 Sino-British Agreement, pushing popular representation to its furthest extent. Functional constituencies, or group representation, remained and remain to this day, and for the foreseeable future.

The real issue in Hong Kong is not the Legislative Council and its composition, but the survival of the rule of law, now currently being thrashed out in the courts.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. HARRIS
(Professor Emeritus of Political Science,
University of Hong Kong),
28 Queen Anne Square,
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3ED.
April 27.

From Mr Tony Salter

Sir, Conservative politicians must be finding it hard to believe that George Walden was once their Honourable Friend.

Yours faithfully,
TONY SALTER,
38 Bennett Park,
Blackheath, SE3 9RB.
April 27.

stronger admission of culpability if the Opposition is to be believed.

Yours truly,
ROGER HOLE
(NHS consultant, 1973-95),
Wynd House,
The Wynd, Hutton Rudby,
North Yorkshire TS15 0ES.
April 26.

From Mr Kenneth J. Jordan

Sir, Peter Lilley is only half right when he says that "the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare" (report, April 21). Its role is, indeed, limited but the Conservative Party has not yet found or reached those limits.

Pusillanimous leadership which puts more faith in focus groups than in rigorous and radical thinking will never find those limits. Nor will it be entrusted with the task by the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH J. JORDAN,
2 Roehampton, Cinder Hill,
Chislehurst, East Sussex BN8 4HR.
ken.jordan@btinternet.com
April 27.

Pinochet extradition

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Lord Lamont of Lerwick (letter, April 23) plaintively asks, regarding General Pinochet: "What sort of justice is it when... it is not necessary to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial?"

The short answer is that it is the justice that the Government of which Lord Lamont was a prominent member forced through Parliament when enacting the Extradition Act 1989, Section 9(4). That sub-section provides precisely the matter of which Lord Lamont now complains.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
4 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, Lord Lamont makes an important point about the damage done to British justice by the most recent decision of the Home Secretary in the Pinochet extradition proceedings, especially in view of the implication of the law lords' statement that the number of cases of alleged malpractice had been reduced to a possible maximum of three (reports, March 25).

But there is further cause for concern with a Government that presumes openness but does not practise it. The Pinochet case can be discussed in the press, on the radio, on television, but not in Parliament where ministers claim it is "sub judice". Given that the decisions by the Home Secretary are strictly political this seems a most curious manifestation of democracy.

Yours faithfully,
MONTGOMERY,
House of Lords.
April 26.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Clue to man's 'hybrid' ancestry

From Dr Euan W. MacKie

Sir, Your report (April 21) about the discovery in the Lapado Valley in Portugal of the skeleton of the four-year-old part-Neanderthal boy, about 24,500 years in age, arouses interest, not least because of the claims made about its great significance for our understanding of the relationship between these archaic humans and the newly arrived modern people, our ancestors. The skeleton is positively said by Professor Erik Trinkaus to show interbreeding between the two groups, hitherto thought of as implacably mutually hostile.

The most obvious physical feature of the Neanderthal people was their skull, with its heavy brow ridge and sloping forehead combined with a very large brain, yet the skull in this case is described as fragmentary. Is it really possible reliably to detect a hybrid individual primarily from limb bones, particularly when they are of an immature boy? The days are long gone when Neanderthals were thought to have had a shuffling, stooping gait with bent long bones; these bones were very similar to ours, though somewhat more robust.

Even if the skeleton does prove to be a hybrid, can we be as confident as Professor Trinkaus and agree that this is not a one-off "love child" but a sign of a more general mixing of the sub-species? Portugal is a long way west from the northward land route through the Near East followed by Homo sapiens when he left Africa (according to one view) and may not be typical.

The stratigraphical evidence from several rock shelters in the Dordogne is well interpreted as showing clearly that, somewhat earlier, there was an abrupt replacement of the Neanderthals by physically modern people and this evidence is not altered by the new discovery.

Yours faithfully,
EUAN W. MACKIE
(Honorary research fellow),
Hunterian Museum,
University of Glasgow,
University Avenue,
Glasgow G12 8QQ.
April 22.

From Mr Shaun Taylor

Sir, The discovery of a skeleton of a young child, apparently with characteristics from both modern man and Neanderthals, is certainly a setback to the old theory that humans actively participated in the extinction of their cousins.

If the boy's skeleton is the offspring of an interbreeding of the two species the question remains, as your report suggests, as to why modern European DNA is not closer to Neanderthal DNA than DNA from other parts of the world.

Possibly, either the offspring of such couplings were sterile, or hybrid organisms frequently are, or the offspring were prone to die before they reached adulthood.

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN TAYLOR,
204 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP13 7LY.
April 21.

EU patron saint

From Professor Emeritus
Edward Garden

Sir, St Cecilia should be the patron saint of the EU (letters, April 14, 21 and 28).

As the patron saint of music, which crosses all artificial, man-made boundaries, she could help to bring harmony to all the participating countries of the Union. Furthermore, it is not about time that we had a woman in such a position?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD GARDEN,
91 Millhouses Lane,
Sheffield S7 2HD.
April 28.

Name of the game

From Mrs Angela Callaghan

Sir, You provided today two wonderful examples of people's names eminently fitting the jobs they do. In the Dr Stuttaford article on obesity we had a Professor Michael Lean pronouncing on weight management; and in Birthdays of Westminster Abbey we had the charming name of Mr Donald Buttress.

This makes a lovely start to the day.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA CALLAGHAN,
59a Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9EN.
April 27.

A Mir Welshman?

From Mr Anthony Moorman

Sir, Peter Llewellyn, who is said to have agreed to pay for a week-long flight on the Mir space station (report, April 28), is described as a "space-mad Welshman" and as a successful "British businessman".

I wonder whether he will be "successful British businessman who buys trip to space" or "a Welshman who failed to buy space holiday"?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MOORMAN,
67a Boroughgate,
Odey, West Yorkshire LS21 1AG.
April 28.

MIND THE GAP

Access to Justice must mean what it says

Legal aid exists to ensure that no one is denied access to the courts for lack of money. But the costs of the current system have soared since 1949, well beyond successive governments' willingness to pay. That is partly because the system has been abused for ill-founded claims. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has recognised that lawyers are inclined to accept cases, regardless of their merits, on the basis that the taxpayer will always pick up the bill. That is why his Access to Justice Bill rightly seeks to tackle the problem of indiscriminate litigation. The Bill seeks to scrap all legal aid for personal injury claims. Instead, lawyers are to take briefs on a "no win, no fee" basis.

The taxpayer may be the winner from this arrangement, but will justice? There are two sides to any action. Those who go to law on the basis that if they do not win they need not pay their own legal bills must still face the possibility that, if they lose, they must pay the other side's costs. The Lord Chancellor envisages that insurance schemes will, however, develop to cover the risk of losing an action.

The development of an insurance market is a neat solution. But only if it meets two concerns. Insurance must be widely available and easily affordable. And, for those who cannot always afford premiums but who need justice, there must be a certainty that their actions, if worthy, can proceed. The House of Lords has amended the Bill in an effort to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable potential litigants are not denied justice.

Insurance companies are prepared to exploit this new market, but they have their own obligations. They are inclined to offer cover only if they can be certain that most cases will be won. The mathematics of

insurance, and the need to spread risk, make such a calculation inevitable. It is fair to say that most cases which do not have a good chance of success should not be taken up. The insurance market could act as a surer judge of which cases are worth pursuing than lawyers who can rely on the taxpayer to fund speculative actions.

But there are still concerns. If an insurance market fails to mature then only those with very deep pockets will be able to pursue their claims. Some insurance companies are already refusing to deal with solicitors who lose too many cases. Even if solicitors do try to insure all their cases, they will still need to think carefully about the number of risky actions they take on. Injured people with cases which appear difficult may find it hard to find a solicitor. Then there is the cost factor. Even a standard personal injury claim is likely to cost more than £100 to insure.

The Lord Chancellor says that a "hard cases" fund will be set up to protect such people. But he has refused to write such protection into the Access to Justice Bill. The House of Lords amendment seeks to rectify this perceived failing. It tries to ensure that a safety net will exist in the legislation to cover all deserving cases. The amendment is supported by the Law Society and the Bar Council. The Lord Chancellor should not just dismiss their campaign as special pleading. While the amendment for which both they, and leading charities, have campaigned may not be the most effective means of balancing access to justice and taxpayers' concerns, there is a need for Lord Irvine to provide greater reassurance. His worthwhile reform should not be blighted by a perception that it will benefit the many at the expense of a deserving few.

GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Why companies should help the homeless

Governments should not need to preach family values. When they do, it is a sure sign that the staple unit of society is breaking apart, that in an increasingly fragmented culture people are being cut adrift. The fallout is only too evident. The streets of London are home to a bedraggled army of beggars trailing blankets, beer cans and pet dogs on strings. At least 500 people in the capital are known regularly to sleep rough. And the problem does not end at King's Cross or Victoria. From Reading to Hove, they sprinkle the commuter belt. They are to be found in all Britain's city centres. Yesterday's visit by the Prince of Wales to The Passage, London's largest day centre for the homeless, served to publicise just how severe this problem has become.

The homeless cannot be stereotyped as a bunch of old alcoholics or aggressive scroungers too idle to work. They form a diverse community ranging from teenagers forced to flee abuses to former members of the Armed Forces. Food, a fixed address, access to washing facilities and a training in basic skills offer those who have stumbled a fresh opportunity to find work and self-respect.

This is where corporate leaders can offer essential support. As president of the charity Business in the Community, the

Prince of Wales yesterday urged business executives to consider innovative ways in which to reinstate homeless people in society. These may begin with straightforward material contributions, financial gifts or donations in kind. Clothing companies, for instance, might provide interview suits, or hoteliers old bed linen. But less tangible generosity is even more welcome. Company employees have many skills to pass on. They can offer their time in mentors' roles. And employers, rather than discriminating against the ambitious simply because they are homeless, could seek out such people in job placement schemes.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the *Big Issue*, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.

MAJOR-GENERAL J. M. H. LEWIS



Mike Lewis: sapper with artistic interests

Major-General J. M. H. Lewis, CBE, wartime sapper and staff officer, died on March 6 aged 79. He was born on April 5, 1919.

AFTER a varied war, in which he took part in the planning of Chindit operations in Burma, Mike Lewis found himself in the early 1950s involved in the largest building project ever undertaken by the British Army. This was the construction in Germany of a new headquarters for Northern Army Group at Rheindalen, near Mönchengladbach.

Joint Headquarters — JHQ for short — was designed to accommodate not only units of the British Army of the Rhine, but also German and Dutch elements of the army group. Since Germany was the most important Cold War posting for the British Army, it required the construction of what amounted to a small town to house 9,000 families of serving military personnel. When it was completed, to drive through the barrier at

Rheindalen was to pass out of the countryside of the Lower Rhine plain into an English small town atmosphere, complete with red-brick houses, familiarly named streets, shops and neatly trimmed civic flowerbeds.

The site at Rheindalen had been virgin woodland at the end of 1952 when work began, yet the whole complex was ready by July 1954. During these two years Lewis was principal staff officer to the chief engineer in charge of the venture, Colonel Harry Gratton, who had rebuilt Quetta after the earthquake of 1935. Lewis was appointed OBE for his work on the project.

John Michael Hardwicke Lewis was the son of Brigadier Sir Clinton Lewis, a sapper who became Surveyor-General of India. He went from Chindit to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1939.

In 1940, being a highly proficient skier, he resigned his commission to serve as a guardsman with the

5th Battalion Scots Guards, a special unit in which all members had to be able to fight on skis. It was raised to support the Finnish Army against the Soviet Union which had invaded Finland in November 1939. But before the unit could sail the Finns had been defeated and Lewis returned to the life of a sapper officer.

Later in 1940 he joined the 18th Division, which was sent to Singapore. In February 1942, a few days before the fall of Singapore, he was one of the few selected to escape in the very limited shipping available. Selection was based on the potential usefulness of the individuals to the war effort elsewhere.

After a hazardous journey via Sumatra and Java, with the Japanese never far behind, the party requisitioned a flat-bottomed Chinese river steamer and with a scratch crew set off for Ceylon. They arrived safely despite three near-misses by Japanese torpedoes.

Lewis was next sent to India to Wingate's Chindit headquarters.

There, and later in Burma, he was involved in planning special forces operations until the war ended.

After the construction of JHQ in Germany he served as second in command of 22 Engineers Regiment in Tripoli, after which he had two years as Commander Royal Engineers in Gibraltar. There, helped by his wife Barbara, he devoted his spare time to the historic library, which had been founded by Pitt the Younger, and is housed in a fine Georgian building. Neglect had led to serious deterioration of valuable books, and Lewis set about getting the library into good order and arranged the installation of air-conditioning to prevent further damage.

Among his later jobs were two years on the international military staff of Nato, based in the Pentagon, which gave him an insight into the differences in the approach to defence problems taken by the Americans, French, Germans and other Nato allies. His final appointment was as Assistant Chief of Staff

(Intelligence) at SHAPE. There, in the words of a contemporary, "He managed the usual tightrope of relations with the Americans and Canadians on the one hand, and the European members on the other, with singular skill and grace." He had been advanced to CBE in 1970 and retired in 1975.

In retirement Lewis devoted himself to his interest in art, which stemmed from his coming from a family which had produced five generations of professional artists. He published three books: *Michael Marieschi: Venetian Artist* (1967); *J. F. Lewis, RA, 1805-1876* (1978); and *The Lewis Family: Art and Travel* (1992).

The study of J. F. Lewis led to his being invited to address the Royal Academy. He was also a regular lecturer for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. From time to time, his views were sought by auction houses and by scholars.

Mike Lewis is survived by his wife Barbara, and three sons.

GEOFFREY WIGODER

Geoffrey Wigoder, author and encyclopaedist, died in Jerusalem on April 9 aged 76. He was born in Leeds on August 3, 1922.

GEOFFREY WIGODER was part of the small Anglo-Jewish elite who went to the newly founded state of Israel in the late 1940s to help to shape its intellectual and professional life. In Jerusalem he teamed up with his Oxford mentor, the Anglo-Jewish historian Cecil Roth, to make his mark as an encyclopaedist. They produced the one-volume, 2,000-page *New Standard Jewish Encyclopaedia*, which remains an indispensable companion for students of the Holy Land. Ten years later, in 1966, they set to work on the 16-volume *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, one of the major Jewish cultural achievements of this century.

In each case Wigoder started as Roth's deputy, but on his death in 1970 he took over as editor-in-chief. For the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* he scoured the world for experts on the most abstruse reaches of Jewish learning. He marshalled an army of 1,800 contributors who ranged from a rabbi in Puerto Rico to a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The *Encyclopaedia* is on the shelves of every academic and many a suburban and provincial general library.

He came well primed to the task. Geoffrey Bernard Wigoder was the son of a dental surgeon in Leeds, a first-generation immigrant from Lithuania. He went to Leeds Grammar School, and moved from there to study medieval Jewish history at Trinity College Dublin. After gaining his MA, he went on to Oxford to do a doctorate.

With that he joined the Jewish Theological Seminary, the conservative rabbinic training college in New York. The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and his chance meeting at the seminary at about that time with a young lady called Deborah McDwyer cut short his ambition to be a rabbi.

After marriage the couple settled in Jerusalem where

Wigoder's first job was in the English department of the Israel Broadcasting Corporation. He soon took charge of all its overseas operations, became a BBC correspondent and wrote for *The Yorkshire Post*.

To supplement his salary, Wigoder joined the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and set up its oral history department, as well as becoming director of Israel's Film Archive on Mount Scopus (his personal collection of films and videos ran into thousands).

After the *Encyclopaedia* was published, he went on writing scholarly works, such as *Jewish Art and Civilization*, *The Story of the Synagogue* and *Jewish Christian Relations in World War II*, as well as newspaper columns for *The Yorkshire Post*, *The Jerusalem Post* and many others. He also helped to found the Israel Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

In his late sixties he ducked retirement and set out to carve a new career for himself in Christian-Jewish relations. He was a regular contributor to the Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, and only last year he gave the Cardinal Bea Lecture in London.

As a companion he was fun as well as formidable. And he remained at heart an expat Briton, reading *The Times* every day, sending cuttings from it back home to his sister, the actress Thelma Ruby, and refusing to go bed on a Saturday night without news of that day's result from Leeds United.

His wife survives him, along with two sons.



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His wife survives him, along with two sons.

Al Hirt, trumpeter, died on April 27 aged 76. He was born on November 7, 1922.

Like his fellow-horn player Harry James, Al Hirt was a formidable and versatile technician who found a lucrative niche in showbusiness. Reluctant even to accept the label of jazz musician, he preferred to describe himself as a "pop commercial" performer. Based in his native New Orleans, he remained a talismanic figure in "Dixieland" jazz, a style which continues to attract a huge following without much in the way of media coverage.

His club, Bourbon St South, was for many years one of the city's landmarks. Hirt played for thousands of visitors intent on discovering something of the roots of the Big Easy's musical heritage. When he pulled down the shutters for the last time in 1983, blaming the rising crime rate for a fall in the number of tourists, he found himself at the centre of controversy, and subsequently apologised to the mayor over the tone of his remarks. Nevertheless, he continued to perform at venues in the French Quarter, and when Pope John Paul II visited the city four years later, it fell to Hirt to play *Ave Maria* in his honour.

The son of a policeman, Alois Maxwell Hirt studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, a grounding which stood him in good stead in later years, when he recorded a Haydn Trumpet Concerto with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Nicknamed "Jumbo", he was a physically imposing individual. His powerful attack is said to have been the result of learning to play a pawnshop trumpet which had been damaged during makeshift repairs and which as a result required exceptional lung power.

An admirer of Harry James and Roy Eldridge, Hirt played in swing bands after serving in the Army. He went on to work with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Ray McKinley, among others, before deciding to return to New Orleans. Traditional jazz was enjoying a revival at this point, and along with the clarinetist Pete



Al Hirt performing at a music festival in Kansas City in 1963

Fountain, Hirt began to build a strong following. In the early years, however, he and Fountain made ends meet by taking day jobs as exterminators with the A & M pest control company. Their partnership continued on and off for decades after Fountain settled

into his own club at the Hilton.

Hirt's transition to national fame at the end of the Fifties included appearances on the immensely popular *Lawrence Welk Show* on TV and regular bookings in the high-paying lounges of Las Vegas. By 1961 he was performing at the inauguration of President Kennedy.

He enjoyed spectacular sales as a solo artist on discs such as *Horn A-Plenty*, and was also regularly paired with performers as varied as Ann-Margret, *Honey in the Horn*, released in 1963, reached No 3 in *Billboard's* album charts that year. His debut at Carnegie Hall two years later yielded another successful recording, by which time he had also veered towards the country market with his hit *Java*.

In 1970 he suffered a hip injury — always a serious problem for a trumpeter —

when he was apparently struck by a brick during a Mardi Gras parade. It was some months before his playing returned in all its vigour.

Defiantly unfashionable, Hirt had an indirect hand in nurturing what has become the most famous dynasty in jazz — the Marsalis clan of New Orleans. The pianist Ellis Marsalis was a member of Hirt's band in the Sixties, and it was during an engagement at Bourbon St South that Hirt — seated at a table with two greats, Miles Davis and Clark Terry — gave Marsalis's young son, Wynton, his first trumpet. Wynton Marsalis later recalled that Davis told Hirt: "Don't give it to him. Trumpet's too difficult an instrument for him to learn."

Hirt and his first wife, the late Mary Paureau Hirt, had eight children. He leaves a widow, Beverly.

ROLAND HUNT

Roland Hunt, CMG, diplomat, died on March 24 aged 83. He was born on March 19, 1916.

ROLAND HUNT's career spanned the turbulent period of the ending of the British Empire and the beginning of the Commonwealth. He served in many parts of the world, and his experiences ranged from trying to prevent the island of Anguilla from breaking away from St Kitts and Nevis to commenting on cricket in Pakistan.

Roland Charles Cohn Hunt was born in his grandparents' Highgate house, shortly after his father's capture on the Western Front. He and his two brothers were brought up in an austere Oxford home where his mother ran a very tight ship; even her knitted socks could be found stored and labelled ("Roland 1925"). After the war, his father became an inspector of schools in Oxfordshire.

The Hunt boys were educated at the Dragon School, where Roland revelled in classics, cricket, music and acting as Laertes he scored an unscripted victory over Hamlet when the graveside fight led to the Prince's retirement with a bloody nose. He went on to Rugby with a scholarship, continued to act, and toured Scandinavia in Shakespeare. He then won a scholarship to The Queen's College, Oxford, where his curly hair moved one elderly don to regret that Hunt was not a girl.

In 1938 Hunt joined the Indian Civil Service, then spending a year on "Empire Studies" at Oxford, which encompassed horse-riding in the Parks, but no political education beyond talk about troublemakers hoping for independence. Hunt realised that a career in India was likely to be brief, and when war broke out he applied to join up but was told that governing India was more important. Accordingly he was shipped out, followed in a highly irregular manner by his wife Pauline, whom he had married that September.

His career in India was indeed foreshortened, lasting until 1947. He enjoyed his spell at the hill station Coonoor where the tigers still roamed, though his work as a collector meant sometimes going down into gardens to collect the taxes hidden in holes in the ground. But by 1946-47, Hunt was in the Secretariat in Madras, living in a spacious house overlooking the Adyar River and trying to ensure that the supply failures which had caused the great famine were not repeated.

Leaving India, he entered the Commonwealth Relations Office and was sent to South Africa, where he helped to negotiate the Simonstown Treaty, which secured collaboration between Britain and South Africa after the withdrawal of the Royal Navy

from its base there. In his final report home in 1955, he forecast that the apartheid regime would not survive for long.

Malaya was one of the few Commonwealth countries to gain independence in the 1950s. As Deputy High Commissioner there, Hunt struck up such a good relationship with the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, that when Benjamin Britten's entry to the competition for a new national anthem arrived, the Tunku descended upon his cottage and insisted that Hunt play it on the piano.

Agreeing that it would not do, they tentatively proposed some modifications and returned the score to Britten. No more was heard, and a local dance tune was chosen instead.

In 1962 Hunt returned to



Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner, working particularly with British companies involved in civil engineering projects, and trying to ease Indo-Pakistan relations, which blew up into another war in 1965.

In that year he became High Commissioner in Uganda, where relations between the Prime Minister, Milton Obote, and the Kabaka of Buganda — "King Freddie" — were dangerously tense. Unfortunately, the Kabaka made a public visit to the High Commissioner's residence to appeal for British support for his regime, making it seem that Hunt supported his cause. As a result the Kabaka was exiled to Britain, where he died after completing his memoir *The Desecration of My Kingdom*.

On his return to Whitehall in 1967, having been appointed CMG, Hunt worked on what were then less controversial issues, such as Caribbean banana quotas and relations between the Falkland Islands and Argentina. He was made High Commissioner in Trinidad in 1970, and enjoyed a peaceful period in this final posting until 1973. He and his wife had a special way of hosting parties anywhere in the world, usually with music and acting games, and preferably coinciding with the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race.

His wife died in 1989. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE SALMON POOL

SPRING has been late this year, cold and wet. Even by mid-April the alder buds were little more than buds, and only the primroses, which grow so quickly on the red sandstone, and the anemones, and the colour of the buds not yet unfolded, show that it is spring and not winter. And all the time violent showers of rain and sleet.

To the salmon fisher the rain is at once a blessing and a curse. The usual cold, dry, bright Easter means no water, either no fish, or fish which will not rise. Therefore it was a pleasure to see the full river. But, alas! if it once begins to rain the habit, like other bad habits, is apt to continue. So, when the river is falling and clearing, and one hugs oneself at the thought of the sport to come, it again rains heavily on the hills, the river rises again and colours, the fish start once more on their upward journey, and there is no take till the water falls again — which may be when the fisherman has gone sadly back to London.

Still and all, the rain, though it came down capriciously and spoiled what might have been a record, did give us three days of glorious sport. And it gave us what is the essence of salmon fishing, the sense of fighting with the elements, which makes February and March fishing so attractive, but which is often denied to the Easter fisherman. Your dry-fly man was as little wind as possible — the trout must be approached with delicacy and accuracy — the day must be calm and bright.

But the salmon is a mighty, fierce fish, and half the pleasure in pursuing him is the sense of power with which the heavy rod forces the fly over the tumbling river into the wind, exactly to the place where it should go.

ON THIS DAY

April 29, 1925

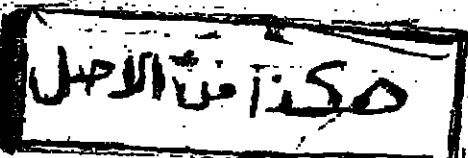
A typical "feature" of prewar days when there were no pictures, and no double column headings to embellish articles on nature, fashion, gardening, motoring, science and so forth.

Therefore, if he gets three days out of us when the water is right, if the fish are taking, and if the fight with the elements leads to victory, the salmon fisher is a happy man.

The first pool is fished more by routine than with hope of success. It is used to be good, but the bank has fallen in, and not many fish have been caught there lately. We do not spend much time on it, but shuffle as quickly as we can in our waders to the second, a small pool called, oddly enough, the Luggage Pool, because (as is carefully explained) "some colleagues who were camping out on the bank once lost all their luggage there." It is difficult wading among the big boulders, but one need not go far. It is one of those places which, for some unknown reason, salmon seem to like so much — where two main streams meet in a V. The fly is cast beyond the farther stream, the rod held well out, and the fly hung so that it swings round into the point of the V. One cast, two casts, three casts then, as the fly comes round, a gleam of gold, not silver, for the water is still slightly coloured, and the scream of the reel. "You didn't see him the first time," says the gillie, as he prepares the gaff, to the fisherman struggling painfully to shore with the point held high. And I was glad I had not. Who knows but that I would have struck too soon? Three leaps, a suborn struggle, and he is on the bank — 10lb.

The \$20bn meeting at Goldman

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BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

Jude and the Obscure

Arts, page 36

Nat Power chief goes in shake-up

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive and is to review strategy in an effort to revive flagging confidence in the company.

National Power also gave warning yesterday that it was reviewing its dividend policy, which is expected to result in a substantial cut, and that profits would be hit by the sale of the Drax power station. The sacking and shake-up have reignited bid speculation in the City and the shares rose 15p to 406 1/2p.

Keith Henry was told to go by the board after a series of apparent U-turns in National Power's strategy, a poor performance in the share price and mounting criticism from investors and unions.

Mr Henry, who joined the generator four years ago from Brown & Root, is expected to get a pay-off of nearly £1 million. Last year he earned an £859,924 package and was given performance-related shares worth £313,000. He has 244,898 share options but 49,582 of those have a strike price higher than the current share price.

Although National Power said that Mr Henry resigned, it is understood that he did not want to leave but was given no option at a boardroom showdown on Tuesday.

His departure comes at a difficult time for National Power as it seeks to find a buyer for Drax. After yesterday's warning, analysts now expect annual pre-tax profits to be cut by £100 million a year once the sale of Drax is completed, although the station contributed £200 million to operating profits in the year to March 31. The generator is also to review its capital structure, triggering ex-



Henry: told to go by board



Collins: long look at strategy

peculations that it could mount a share buyback after the sale of Drax.

Things started to go wrong for National Power in March last year when it issued a £130 million UK profits warning because of the end of the coal contracts. This was followed by an international profits warning in the autumn. The generator further shook confidence in February this year when it emerged that it had been in merger talks with United Utilities. National

Power had always said it didn't want a full regional electricity business, let alone a water and electricity business such as United.

A search is now on for a successor to Mr Henry. Sir John Collins, the non-executive chairman, is to act in an executive role until an appointment is made while Graham Brown, the managing director, will become chief operating officer. Sir John, who is chief executive of Avestra, wants someone with different skills to those of Mr Henry. Mr Henry was seen as a build and buy chief executive whose vision was unhinged by the Government's order to sell power stations and by the changing UK electricity market.

One name likely to be in the frame is John Devaney, former head of the Energy Group, who left the company shortly after its takeover by Texas Utilities. Mr Devaney would be seen as more focused and determined than Mr Henry, who has for long been compared unfavourably with the forthright Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen.

Sir John said: "I will be taking a long look at the strategy and seeking the right person for the job. We will take as much time as necessary."

Peter Atherton, analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said Mr Henry's removal put National Power properly into play as a bid prospect after months of expectation because of its poor performance. He said: "The management team has disappointed the investment community too much over the past 16 months."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "It is to be hoped that National Power now achieves stability and purpose. The company clearly has enormous potential but that has not been achieved yet."

National Power is to set its final dividend at 19p (18p), making a total of 28.6p (27p).

Nethercott sacked over 'scam'

Managing director lied to the board, says chairman

By Fraser Nelson

RAY NETHERCOTT, the managing director of Allied Carpets who quit the company last Friday, was sacked yesterday for allegedly lying repeatedly about his part in the accounting scandal that hit the company last year.

Julian Lee, chairman, said the board has evidence to prove Mr Nethercott was aware about a "phantom sales" scam that came to light in July last year. Mr Nethercott has had his contract terminated without compensation.

Mr Lee said: "I had always thought I had known Ray quite well, but clearly I didn't. He told the board he had no idea about the goings-on. I was extremely surprised and shocked to learn this was not the case."

It is unclear whether Mr Nethercott may be liable to prosecution by allegedly misleading Arthur Andersen, the auditors who resigned over the affair. Paul Manser, partner at law firm Taylor Joynson Garrett, said Section 17 of the Theft Act, outlaws company directors making false statements with the intent of misleading shareholders. He added that Section 233 of the Companies Act states that directors who knowingly approve false accounts are guilty of an offence.

Allied Carpets admitted last summer that its store managers had been marking a carpet as "sold" as soon as an order was placed. The practice, known as "pre-dispatching", is not illegal but violated company policy that sales should not be marked as completed until delivery. The scam flattered trading figures and led to £3 million charge against profits last year.

Eight months ago, David Pout, finance director, resigned with a £221,000 payoff. He said he had no knowledge of the scam. Steve Barber, sales manager also left with £156,000 compensation.



David Pout, left, with Ray Nethercott, who was sacked by Allied Carpets on Friday

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Equity prices: 35
Unit trusts: 34



Graham Searjeant
on false Messiahs

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STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100: 6098.9 (+5.2)
FTSE All Share: 3041.54 (+2.83)
Nikkei: 16942.24 (-15.08)
New York: 10845.74 (+14.03)
Dow Jones: 1357.88 (-4.94)
S&P Composite: 1357.88 (-4.94)

US RATE

Federal Funds: 4 1/4% (4 1/4%)
Long bond: 5 3/8% (5 3/8%)
Yield: 5.59% (5.54%)

EURO AREA

3-month interbank: 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
3-month long bill: 115.00 (115.40)
3-month Euro: 115.00 (115.40)

STERLING

New York: 1.6150* (1.6182)
London: 1.6151* (1.6182)
Frankfurt: 1.5137* (1.5178)
Paris: 1.5137* (1.5178)
Yen: 162.45 (164.24)
£ Index: 104.1 (104.1)

YEN

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Chairman ready to underwrite Ashley issue

By Fraser Nelson

LAURA ASHLEY yesterday sold its loss-making US stores for just \$1 and was then cast a further financial lifeline by Dr Kay Peng Khoo, the company's Malaysian billionaire chairman, who has agreed to underwrite another rescue rights issue.

The £24.6 million rights issue is likely to see Dr Khoo raise the 40 per cent stake owned by his MUI Asia empire, to 60 per cent.

The sale of its disastrous US venture sees Laura Ashley retaining debts accrued of £4 million. Goldman Sachs, its merchant bank adviser, has been looking for a buyer since last September. The \$1 paid by its management is understood to have been the only offer received. It was told it was in danger of being put into receivership unless it sold the US

shops. Laura Ashley has already spent the £44 million it raised when it originally asked for Dr Khoo's help last year. It also had a £50 million bank overdraft facility which expired last Friday. The company has now negotiated a new £43 million overdraft facility which expires next April.

If there is no support for the 199 million shares being issued at 13p apiece then MUI and Dr Khoo will take them up. One analyst said yesterday: "The City institutions will not be climbing over each other to support this rights issue. The Malaysians are welcome to it."

Laura Ashley yesterday also reported a loss of £31.9 million for the year to January 30, an improvement on the £49.3 million loss last time.

Commentary, page 29

Unigate lifts bid for Terranova

UNIGATE, the food and dairy group, looked odds-on last night to win its hostile attempt to take control of Terranova, the prepared foods business spun out of Hilldown Holdings last year (Robert Cole writes).

Unigate raised its 125p-a-share cash offer to 150p late yesterday, and revealed that it had secured a promise from Phillips & Drew, the pension fund manager, to support the new offer. The offer is final unless a rival bid comes in of 160p or more. P&D speaks for 13.1 per cent of Terranova.

Crucially, however, in late trading, Unigate raised the market to acquire a 29.9 per cent stake in Terranova for itself. Together with P&D's 13 per cent and 5 per cent acceptances on the earlier bid terms, Unigate can count support from 48 per cent of Terranova stock.

Terranova said it is "considering" the revised offer. Its rose to 148 1/2p from 139p yesterday. Unigate added 13p to close at 438 1/2p.

Business rate rises 'put City jobs at risk'

By Martin Waller

LONDON businesses face having to pay an extra £800 million a year when the new business rate comes in from April next year, according to research by two respected property consultants. There are fears that significant job losses will result.

Organisations such as the Corporation of London and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry are warning that the capital will be particularly badly hit this time around.

Although the new rates have yet to be set, research by Gerold Eve and CB Hillier Parker suggests that Central London could have to find an extra £4 billion over the next five years.

In the City, the evidence suggests that rates bills could rise by 70 per cent, while occupiers of new buildings could see

even higher rises. Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of London First, the inward investment agency, said a gradual phase-in of increased rates is essential if London is to compete with other European and world cities.

Opponents of the present system are also calling for an additional levy of 1p for every pound paid across the country in business rates. This would be set aside in a special fund to alleviate the highest increases.

Without any reform, said Mr O'Brien, "pressure may be renewed on existing businesses to relocate outside central London. One major consequence of this would be the potential loss of a large number of jobs."

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.chief.london.gov.uk

EU to investigate Longbridge deal

By Sigrid Auferbeck



Van Miert: inquiry

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Union's Competition Commissioner, yesterday demanded that BMW produces evidence that its "Hungarian option" was ever a serious alternative to building its new Rover model at Longbridge.

Mr Van Miert has called for the information as the Commission launches an investigation into whether the aid granted by the British Government to ensure production stays in Birmingham should be approved by Brussels.

Speculation has increased that BMW's stated contingency plan of moving new Rover production to Hungary was just a ruse to squeeze financial support from the

British Government. The Department of Trade and Industry agreed last month to grant BMW Rover's German parent, aid of about £150 million.

Sieff Ruting, a spokesman for Mr Van Miert, said: "Since the automobile industry is a sensitive sector with existing overcapacities, the limits that apply for subsidies are particularly tight. To be eligible for aid, BMW must prove that investing in Britain would be substantially more expensive than elsewhere outside the EU."

Jürg Danner, a spokesman for BMW, said: "We had informal talks in Hungary about specific sites there but we always made it clear that Longbridge was our preferred location."

Tony Woodley, the union negotiator at

Rover, said he was confident that BMW would have enough evidence to convince the Commission about the Hungarian option. "Once Mr Van Miert sees the facts, he will learn that there had been a serious competing bid from the Hungarian side," he said.

If BMW fails to produce any evidence, opposition to the subsidy will mount. Wenzel Widukind, head of Porsche, threatened in March to challenge the aid package. Only last week, Ford was eager to point out that production of a new model at its Dagenham plant, which will increase production there by two thirds, will be launched without subsidies.

Commentary, page 29



By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRASER NELSON

A spokesman for the Railway Forum, the rail industry's umbrella body, said: "The time has come for a careful assessment of how to provide socially necessary rail services. Some of these companies need help but if a station is serving one passenger every three days it is fair to question whether resources are being channelled in a way that best serves the rural community."

	Bark Buy	Bark- Sell
Australia \$	2.57	2.40
Austria Sch	13.76	13.20
Belgium Fr	64.36	59.40
Canada \$	2.514	2.36
Denmark Kr	16.80	0.0448
East German M	11.98	10.97
Euro	8.73	8.15
Finland Mk	5.94	5.62
France Fr	10.42	9.84
Germany DM	3.36	3.28
Greece Dr	321	287
Hong Kong S.	13.38	12.48
India Rupee	16.10	14.10
Indonesia Rp	17499	12269
Italy Lira	1,487	1,497
Japan Yen	160.3	158.17
Korea Won	5112	2875
Netherlands Gld	0.68	0.622
New Zealand \$	3.532	3.237
Norway Kr	13.35	12.55
Portugal Esc	13.19	12.45
Spain Ptas	318.22	294.49
Sweden Kr	10.43	9.47
Swiss Fr	263.79	245.00
United Kingdom £	14.32	13.22
USA \$	2.874	2.74
Yokohama ¥	64.892	60.924
USA \$	1.58	1.55

Rates for small commercial banknotes only as supplied by Barclay Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of market yesterday.

Colin Birrell, head of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shops, on which Grampian Holdings is to focus, along with its Malcolm transport operation. Grampian saw pre-tax profits of £10.3 million (£29 million) after losses in businesses it is leaving. Its year's payout is 7.6p (7.2p).

By CARL MORTSHED

The fifth-largest chain in the UK with 101 branches, Keyline will enable Travis to consolidate its grip on the heavy side of the market (cement and bricks) and will strengthen its position in the North and Scotland. The combined group will have sales of £932 million, or 11 per cent of the market.

The decision by CRH to pull out of the UK merchant market signalled the final act in a struggle for dominance between the three largest players in the market: Wolseley, Meyer and Travis Perkins.

Travis Perkins yesterday predicted savings of £15 million a year in the third year after the deal, with reorganisation costs of £7.5 million. Keyline had operating profits of £14.6 million last year after sales of £309 million.

**BY ALASDAIR MURRAY,
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT**

The report, written in response to a request from the Treasury Select Committee, again emphasises that the Bank prefers a pragmatic approach to policy-making and that it does not adhere to any strict economic orthodoxy.

SONY has seen net profits plunge by nearly 20 per cent. The Japanese electronics group, maker of the Walkman personal stereo, reported net profit for the year to March 31 of ¥179 billion (¥927 million), down from ¥221.1 billion the previous year. It forecast that its current-year net profit will fall to ¥110 billion as sales begin to wane for the PlayStation games console, which generates nearly 40 per cent of operating profits.

Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry Minister, said yesterday that a new eight-person foundation will be set up to oversee regulation of the profession, while an independent review board will act a

SCOTTISH RADIO, the radio group whose main interests are Radio Clyde and Radio Forth, yesterday bought Parkin Advertising, a Bristol outdoor contractor, for £8.9 million. Parkin made pre-tax profits of £610,000 in its year to March 31, on sales of £3.59 million. Scottish will pay £8.7 million in cash, and £500,000 in shares. It said: "This is a positive step forward in our planned expansion in the outdoor sector."

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Mobile Crane Model G2555, 1992 Grues 25 Tons Trencher
Mobile Crane Model AT6308, 1985 ext Crane Ruckus 25 Tons
Mobile Bender Crane Model Model G2555, Excavator 4 x
1953/82 Model JCS Hydraulic Excavator Model JS200L2,
MOBILES L5 & 1959/61 ext Model JCS Shimmerer 400 Front End
Loader/Bachofen/Fordill, 1957 Mobile Dumper 400 Tons Concrete
Mixing 10 Mobile Frontloaders, 1955 JCS Rough Terrain Mobile
400 Load All Firm Spine Hydraulic Crane Model 505-25
2 Manitou Manitoucrane 400 Rough Terrain Hydraulic Truck Type
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ICI sells paints business to PPG

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Time to pull rug from under Lee



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Julian Lee is not resigning as the chairman of Allied Carpets. Despite being an accountant and having been blissfully unaware of the long-running accounting irregularities that have caused Allied such difficulties, Mr Lee has no intention of deserting his shareholders.

They may not find this a source of great comfort. Mr Lee remained in the chair of textile company Hollas as it descended into receivership. He took over as chairman of the business in 1993. In 1996 he was proclaiming that Hollas was on track to be a leading clothing supplier, despite appearances to the contrary. Less than two years later, it was gone.

Mr Lee may have been better able to take the disappointment than some of his shareholders: he had made £3 million after leading the buyout of Broom from British & Commonwealth Holdings and selling it on. British & Commonwealth, however, did not survive for much longer.

Mr Lee was the chairman of Allied Carpets when it came to market in 1996, the prospectus signed off by the chaps at Arthur Andersen, his old firm. If the auditors could not spot what was going on at Allied, then perhaps it was not surprising that the chairman missed the trick. But Arthur Andersen is the company's auditor no longer.

If executives are out to hoodwink the auditors, they can often

succeed. It happened at Wickes, for instance, where a complicated system produced different invoices for different audiences. The Allied accounting rules seem to have been such that Sherlock Holmes might have found it hard to spot the discrepancies.

As the £2 million black hole was exposed, executives bowed out but Ray Nethercott remained at his desk. He may not have been the best at selling carpets, but he excelled at keeping things under them. In August last year, as the Allied share price sank to 53p because of the scandal, he vowed that "the rebuilding process starts today". But it did not. Yesterday Allied was looking even more sickly, its shares at just 39p. Last year venture capitalist Alchemy was proffering a bid at 55p but found its offer spurned after an initial friendly reaction.

Shareholders will not see the like of that again. Allied's problems now go well beyond its accounting systems and straight to sales. Lord Harris of Peckham would have taken the firm out of its misery if the competition authorities would have allowed. Instead of that, he is simply taking the business. The carpet king has

no qualms about hitting a competitor when it is down and Carpetright is offering promotions that Allied cannot afford to equal.

Mr Lee may have seized his ample frame into the managing director's chair, but he will need to move fast to fight Lord Harris. Shareholders might feel inclined to suggest that he bows out with his managing director and does not risk another Hollas.

What hope for lovelorn Laura?

There are celebrations all round at Goldman Sachs, as even the humblest telephoneist looks forward to a hand-out of shares that should yield a hefty bonus in future years. Were she in kindly mood, she might contemplate blowing some of that future wealth in advance on a Laura Ashley outfit. That Laura Ashley is still

afloat is testimony to the remarkable skills of the investment banking house and its star turn, John Thornton, in particular. But the Malaysians who were persuaded to save Laura from bankruptcy by the then chairman, one John Thornton, must be wondering what on earth they saw in her.

Now MUI is faced with putting £25 million more into keeping the old girl afloat. Their intention must be that, once they emerge as the majority owners of the business, they will be able to take it private so that they can conceal further indignities from public view. Mr Thornton will then be absolved from his current non-executive directorship and be able to wipe out the whole sorry episode — if Sir Bernard Ashley will let him.

If the irascible Sir Bernard had been able to accept that Ashley stopped being a family business the day it was floated, the picture might look very different

now. Instead, he interfered and the company suffered a rapid succession of managers.

The current incumbents face a difficult task, even if they will be soon addressing it away from the glare of the public spotlight. Laura may still have her fans, although by now they must be confused as to whether she stands for pretty prints or modern tailoring of the kind favoured by Anne Iverson. But shoppers are not splashing their money around, as Arcadia made clear yesterday. The tenor of the statement from the company was not quite as gloomy as the figures it reported, but chief executive John Hoerner was far from upbeat about the prospects on the high street. Arcadia has cut back its forecasts and is keeping prices in check.

Its high street chains may face a toughening up of the competition as Philip Green gets to work on the Sear's businesses that he now owns. Mr Green would find it hard to make a worse job of run-

ning them than the previous management, but the chances are that he will soon be pockmarked the proceeds from selling them on to others. Mr Hoerner must be wondering whether he should stand back and risk a sharper competitor getting hold of his rivals or dig deep and buy them himself.

Burns goes to extra time on penalties

Steering the new Financial Services Act onto the statute books was never going to be an easy task but expecting Lord Burns to knock it into shape within just four weeks was asking the impossible. The former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is a man of many talents but distilling the concerns of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament over one of the more controversial pieces of proposed legislation would be a rushed job with a six-month timetable.

Lord Burns does not have the luxury of that but he has been allotted another month. The issues of concern that have arisen were predictable. There is some worry over the definition of market abuse, a failing which is proba-

bly more easily discernible in practice than it is on paper. Those drafting the legislation feel sure that a Clapham omnibus-riding IFA or broker would recognise market abuse when he met it.

The issue of greatest concern, however, remains the disciplinary powers with which the new authority is to be endowed and the fears that these might amount to a breach of human rights. Lawyers have exhibited unusual generosity of spirit in pointing out their suspicions on this front now instead of waiting to take on the cases that might be generated were the Bill to go unchallenged. Lord Burns should use his extra time to ensure that the disciplinary system will be speedy and fair, even if this makes it more costly.

Subsiding subsidies

KAREL Van Miert's days as Competition Commissioner in Brussels may be numbered but he is not going to let that stand in his way now that the government subsidy for Rover has caught his attention. But as he huffs and puffs he might take note that between 1995 and 1997 the average subsidy for each worker employed in manufacturing industry in Italy was £2,302 and in Germany it was £1,569. For the UK, the figure was just £381. The Longbridge workers could argue that they deserve more.

ICI sells paints business to PPG

By CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS EDITOR

ICI is selling an industrial paints business to America's PPG for £425 million in a deal that will further reduce its borrowings after this month's £1.4 billion sale of the titanium dioxide and polyurethane businesses to Huntsman.

PPG is acquiring ICI's refinishing coatings, used in vehicle damage repair, and Grow Automotive, a North American solvents and thinners business, as well as a variety of industrial coatings operations in Latin America and Asia.

The deal will contribute a pre-tax profit of £190 million for ICI and the deal will have a neutral effect on earnings over the next year.

PPG has been attempting to build up its industrial coatings business over the past year, and earlier in April bought a minor coatings business from ICI in Germany. The US company lost out to Akzo Nobel in its attempted bid for Courtauld and missed acquiring Herbets, the coatings business which was sold by Hoechst to DuPont.

ICI's debt burden, taken on when the company acquired Unilever's fragrance and flavourings businesses, will fall to £2.3 billion after the disposals to Huntsman and PPG. It is still seeking buyers for the halochemicals businesses which together have sales of about £1.5 billion.

TI tops up with Walbro of the US in £356m purchase

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has made a \$570 million (£356 million) recommended takeover bid for Walbro, a petrol tank maker listed on Nasdaq.

The purchase, which is expected to enhance earnings from next year, is aimed at enabling TI to meet vehicle makers' demands for integrated fuel systems.

TI makes flowlines for transporting fuel to the engine and Walbro specialises in tanks made from advanced composite materials and petrol pumps.

Walbro reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of \$79 million last year from sales of \$678 million.

The price includes \$388 million of assumed debt, most of which stems from Walbro's heavy capital investment programme of the past three years.

TI will also incur a \$25 million cost to buy out Walbro's management under that company's change of control provisions.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman, said that about \$9 million of this would be paid to Frank Bauchiero, Walbro's chief executive.

The total offer represents an earnings multiple of 7.2-times Walbro's 1998 earnings on an EBITDA basis.

It is pitched at a premium of more than 60 per cent to Walbro's share price shortly before the bid was announced.



TI chairman Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, with finance director Martin Angle. The deal includes \$388 million of debt

Sir Christopher said Walbro would meet TI's internal hurdle rate, which is a 15 per cent return on investment within three years of purchase. He said the deal would make TI the first company in the world to supply a totally integrated

fuel system. The composite materials used to make Walbro's tanks meant it would also be able to offer significant environmental advantages over its competitors. This was because there was less scope for hydrocarbons to escape. Sir Christo-

pher said the integrated fuel systems business was worth \$6.5 billion a year, of which TI would have 15 per cent.

Michael Blogg, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, said he had revised his 2000 forecast earnings growth for

TI from 11 per cent to 14 per cent on the back of the deal.

Mr Blogg said TI could be expected to lift Walbro's margins significantly from the current level of about 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Arcadia shares rise despite profits slump

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Arcadia yesterday rose 14 per cent as the Burton's to Principles retail group said it came out of the Christmas sales slump in better shape than the City expected.

The shares jumped 32½p to 272½p even though Arcadia turned in interim profits more than halved to £23 million (£50.3 million).

The company said that its sales growth returned in February and March, but stopped short of giving a figure.

Arcadia had been expected to be among companies hardest hit by the downturn in retail sales because it pays top rents for places in most UK high streets and retail parks.

John Hoerner, chief executive, said that the group lost about 1.5 percentage points in gross margin to shift-unsold

stock after Christmas, but had maintained its market share.

Analysts are divided on the share performance. Some question whether a £37 million charge for an internal shake-up should have been put as a one-off item. Others say Arcadia is being chased by fans of its Internet retail service, which has more than half the UK online market.

Mr Hoerner said: "These could not be described as good profit figures by any stretch of the imagination, but they are obviously better than some people were expecting."

Arcadia shares have fallen 14 per cent in the past ten days. Basic earnings per share were 19.5p (31.2p). The interim dividend is held at 4.7p.

Tempus, page 30

M&S to leave Canada

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

MARKS & SPENCER has ended its disastrous 26-year foray into Canada, announcing yesterday that it would close its 38 stores within a year.

The move, which will cost M&S £25 million, has placed a big question mark over the future of the group's stores outside the UK, many of which also incur heavy losses.

M&S's Canadian arm has crawled out of the red just once since its creation in 1973, prompting questions from analysts yesterday about why the company was so slow in addressing the problem. It made an £8.3 million operating loss in the year to March 31, 1998.

An M&S spokeswoman said the decision had been prompted by the expiry of many of the store leases held in Canada. A strategic review of M&S's activities is due to be unveiled in June.

Merger approach lifts Partco

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Partco rose 30 per cent after the car parts and crash repair company reported it is in possible takeover talks for the second time in less than ten months.

The talks centre around a possible £178 million bid — 245p per share — for the company, representing a premium of 36 per cent to the closing share price on Tuesday, the day before the talks were announced. Last year Partco rejected a £420 million merger approach from Finelst.

Analysts yesterday ruled out Finelst as a possible suitor because of its weak balance sheet. Another candidate is GE Capital, the US financial services company. Another possible bidder is Ford, which took over the Kwik-fit chain for £1 billion earlier this month. Partco is one of Kwik-fit's main car parts suppliers. Shares in Partco closed up 53½p yesterday at 233½p.

First Leisure and Cannons halt talks

By DOMINIC WALSH

CANNONS GROUP and First Leisure yesterday abandoned plans to merge their health and fitness businesses — just two days after announcing that they were discussing a deal.

The merger, under which Cannons would have issued new shares to acquire First Leisure's fitness division, was terminated after the sides said they were "unable to reach agreement on the financial terms". A deal would have doubled Cannons's market value

to more than £500 million. Neither side would elaborate, although it is understood that the amount of debt First Leisure wanted to inject into the enlarged group was one of the issues. One analyst said: "Cannons is only in the market for deals that are earnings enhancing. What First Leisure brought to the table clearly wasn't earnings enhancing."

It is understood that three First Leisure executives would have joined the enlarged Cannons board, including Patrick Henchoz, the head of its fit-

ness division. Mr Henchoz last week received £4.3 million from the sale of a minority stake in ISL Leisure, one of First Leisure's subsidiaries. First Leisure paid a total of £13.8 million to buy out the 23 per cent of ISL it did not already own, the balance of £9.5 million going to Nash Sells & Partners, the venture capital group.

Cannons, formerly known as Vardon, may consider a move on Pinnacle Leisure, which abandoned plans for a £70 million flotation last year and is considering a possible trade sale. Cannons

said: "Cannons is an acquisitive company and is the strongest pure health and fitness company in the market financially. There are plenty of opportunities."

The failure of the talks heightens the pressure on Michael Grade, the First Leisure chief executive. The sale had been expected to result in a break-up of the company. Analysts expressed concern at the lack of action. First Leisure shares closed down 7½p at 246½p while Cannons was unchanged at 192½p.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Oil companies pump out good gains after reports

OIL shares took up the baton from telecom stocks by dragging the rest of the equity market back into positive territory after a nervous start.

Overnight support by American investors for oil-related companies set the pace reflecting the latest rise in the price of a barrel of oil. Sentiment was flavoured by a bullish report from the American Petroleum Institute which revealed that US crude oil stocks had fallen by 4.7 million barrels in the week to April 23. Year-on-year, crude stocks were also down 6.6 million barrels.

The report fuelled further gains for the price of oil on world markets where a barrel of North Sea Brent crude was changing hands at \$16.28. That is in stark contrast to the low of just under \$10 a barrel reached earlier this year.

Among the leaders, BP Amoco jumped 36p to £11.60, Shell 9p to 454p, while among the exploration companies Ranger Oil stood out with a rise of 15p to 270p.

Share prices generally lacked much of the sparkle seen earlier in the week despite a strong overnight performance by the Dow Jones industrial average and opening gains last night.

The FTSE 100 index managed to reverse an early 16-point deficit and, at one stage, again breached the 6,000 level. But it was running out of steam towards the close following two consecutive days of impressive gains. In the event, it closed 5.2 up at a new high of 6,598.8. The FTSE 250 index also rose 5.0 to 5,813.7 as the total number of shares changing hands reached 1.8 billion.

The life assurance operators managed to post some useful gains with Prudential Corporation climbing 50p to 919p after highlighting the success of its Egg banking operation. It has achieved its five-year target plan of 500,000 customers and £5 billion of savings in just six months. Warburg Dillon Reed, the broker, has been pushing the Pru as a "buy".

Encouraging trading statements lifted Sun Life & Provincial 28p to 577p and Royal & Sun Alliance 15p to 527p. United Assurance also advanced 14p to 469p. Speculative buying hoisted Independent Insurance 26p to 258p.

British Airways firmed up to 504p after becoming the



Frank Sytner, chairman, saw shares of Sytner Group rise 11p to 212p on the back of a positive annual meeting

first non-financial company to raise extra funds with an issue of euro-denominated fixed interest stock. The issue of £300 million (£200 million) has a nominal value of £25 and a fixed coupon of 6.75 per cent.

British American Tobacco put on 22p to 505p ahead of first-quarter results later today which should see pre-tax profits come in at between

£280 million and £295 million, down from £311 million. The profits warning from Stanley Leisure, down 55p to 248p, where margins in its horse racing operation have come under increasing pressure also took a toll of rival Ladbroke, 184p off to 293p.

Sainsbury retreated 34p to 400p as HSBC Securities, the broker, reiterated its "re-

duce" recommendation and target price of 350p for the shares. It has also lowered its rating for Tesco, 1p lighter at 186p from "hold" to "reduce" now that the price has reached its target of 187p.

An upbeat trading statement lifted Ocean Group 10p to 963p. Shareholders at the annual meeting were told that trading in the first quarter had lived up to expectations for the freight forwarder. The group is looking for suitable acquisitions to develop its air and sea freight activities. The price has more than doubled since hitting a low of 472p in October last year.

Bullish comments at the annual meeting had investors beating a path to Sytner Group, up 11p to 212p. The motor distributor says 1999 has got off to an encouraging start with profits well ahead of budget and the corresponding period last year.

But some cautious comments about current trading led United Carriers 24p off to 204p. The haulier reported a decline in volumes but said it was too early to say whether it was temporary or a growing trend.

A-listed Artisan (UK) touched 94p before ending 8p better at 8p. Rosebowl, a private company, has bought 1.3 million shares, or 15.4 per cent. At the same time, Stephen Dean, chairman, has bought an additional 929,135 shares for his adult children's family trust. He now controls 24.9 million shares, or 29.9 per cent.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices were dealt a blow by the cool reception given to the latest auction of 30-year index-linked stock. The issue of £500 million nominal of Treasury index-linked 2030 was only 94 per cent subscribed. Other index-linked issues suffered with losses stretching to £4 in places.

News of the auction also left the June series of the long gilt nursing a loss of 38p to £116.08 as the number of contracts completed reached 44,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed 9p to £145.12, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p lighter at £105.76.

NEW YORK: US blue chips were mixed in early trading with cyclical strength. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 14.03 points to 10,845.74.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	10845.74 (+14.03)
S&P Composite	1267.86 (+9.9)
Tel Aviv	1594.24 (-15.03)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1373.30 (-291.40)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	575.53 (+1.12)
Sydney:	
ASX	3122.7 (-22.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5348.61 (+1.11)
Singapore:	
SEAC	1837.16 (-39.23)
Brussels:	
BE20	3236.15 (-21.71)
Paris:	
CAC 40	4374.70 (-16.22)
Zurich:	
SMI Index	7360.9 (-16.4)
London:	
FT 30	4122.6 (+11.0)
FTSE 100	6598.8 (+5.2)
FTSE 250	5813.7 (+5.0)
FTSE 350	5115.5 (+2.5)
FTSE Europe 100	3063.96 (+0.10)
FTSE All-Share	3041.84 (+2.63)
FTSE Non-Financials	3046.01 (+0.88)
FTSE Financials	153.97 (+0.48)
FTSE Govt Stock	110.08 (-0.30)
Bergsma	79192
SEAD Volume	1186.48
US\$	1.6133 (-0.0011)
£/¥	0.6294 (-0.0003)
Exchange Index	104.1 (Stam)
Bank on England official rate (4pm)	
1997-1998 Mar 23 (1998 Jan 1987-1998)	
1998-1999 Mar 27 (1998 Jan 1987-1998)	

RECENT ISSUES

Altricity Internet	176p	+ 34
St. James's Place VCT (100)	95	
St. James's Place VCT Writs	12p	
Calquhoun Euro Restruct	112p	
Calquhoun Restruct Writs	25p	
Edinburgh Inc & Val	110	
Edinburgh Val Zero Div Pl	108	
Planning 1 & 6 Units 2006	111	
Gartmore High Income	111	
Gartmore Zero Div Pl	109	
Halliburton Non Cum Pl	100p	
Northern VCT	100	
Sherry Fitzgerald	142	
Sports Internet	180p	- 7
Trium VCT	100	
Voyager 2000	10	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	4p	+ 1p
Emmer International n/p (RSP) 2p	2p	+ 1p
Mica n/p (60)	26p	+ 1p
Versatile n/p (55)	1p	

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:			
Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Stock	108	-11	-10
Acadia Group	272p	+ 32p	+13.5
Cars Milling	97p	+ 11	+12.7
Independent	258p	+ 26	+10.1
Frederick	165p	+ 16p	+9.7
Bowdler	315p	+282p	+9.1
Adam & Harvey	167p	+ 14	+8.4
Altricity	147p	+ 12	+8.2
Stock (Jan)	260	+ 20	+7.7
Toronto	165	+ 14	+8.1
UBS Group	368p	+ 26	+7.1
Premier Farnell	282p	+ 19	+6.7
FTI Furniture	21p	+ 2p	+9.5
Ashted	157p	+ 10p	+6.4
Ashted	538p	+ 35p	+6.5
Collected	500p	+ 29	+5.8
Collected	84.80p	+ 4.80	+5.7
Cyberport	218p	+ 12	+5.5
Prudential	919p	+ 50	+5.4
Sun Life & P.	577p	+ 28p	+4.9
FTI Bank	272p	+ 25p	+4.8
Brit Amer Tel	505	+ 22	+4.3
Knightsbridge	921p	+ 39p	+4.2
Br Energy	545p	+ 23	+4.2

TEMPUS

Fuelling fresh growth

TI GROUP should have little difficulty convincing the market that its \$570 million (£356 million) acquisition of Walbro is a winner. Once the jargon has been extracted, TI's concept is simple. TI already makes the pipes which supply fuel from the petrol tank to the engine. Walbro manufactures petrol tanks. Putting the two together will enable TI to offer vehicle manufacturers a one-stop shop for fuel delivery systems around the globe.

TI, under the guidance of Sir Christopher Lewington, has bought wisely. Its purchase price of \$20 a share represents a premium of 67 per cent over Walbro's share price prior to the deal. More relevantly the price is equivalent to 7.2 times 1998 earnings before interest, depreciation and amortisation.

It is obvious that Walbro is not Wall Street's best friend. It has invested heavily — perhaps

excessively for a company of its size — in state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment but its shareholders have been tired of the company's promises of Jan tomorrow.

Moreover, Walbro's investment programme is responsible for the fact that \$388 million (£241 million) of TI's purchase price is assumed debt.

However, Walbro shareholders' loss is TI's gain. Walbro's production capacity leaves plenty of room for expansion and TI can draw on Walbro's technical knowledge. There is ample scope for TI to lift margins.

The acquisition is likely to be earnings neutral for TI this year, leaving the stock trading on a prospective earnings multiple of 14 times. This represents fair value now, but the earnings boost which will flow from Walbro in 2000 puts TI on the buy list.

ARCADIA

IT IS odd, even in these days of better shelter share prices. Yet stock in Arcadia, the re-named and reformed Burton clothes shop, rose nearly 14 per cent yesterday. That made it the biggest riser on the day among the 350 largest quoted companies.

True, the share price has weakened in the past couple of days and part of yesterday's performance can be put down to a correction. Arcadia's reference to Internet trading may also have fired sentiment. But it must be coming *de rigueur* these days for retailers to have healthy Web distribution channels. Internet exposure among serious retailers struggles, already, to be genuinely differentiating.

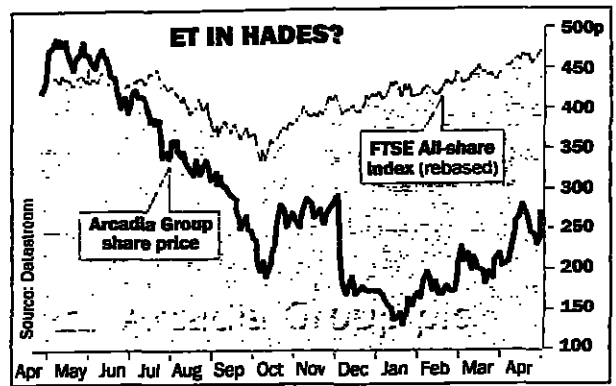
Yesterday's interim profit figures gave no comfort and could not have fuelled the

share price leap. Pre-tax profits were ugly. Profit margins were cut in half and sales seem to be going nowhere. The interim dividend was maintained at 4.7p, which indicates that the underlying picture is every bit as grim as it seems.

But none of this satisfactorily explains yesterday's 32p leap in the share price to

272p, or the strong recovery from the 134p price plummeted in January.

On occasion investors have to resign themselves to the fact that they work from a position of imperfect knowledge. We do not know what the excitement is but the gut says something is going on, perhaps on the acquisition front. Hold on.



Builder's merchants

AFTER Yuppies, Dinkies and Kids (pensioners who Spend the Biddy, The Biddy is the homeowner who, when renovation and decoration is required, says to him/herself: "Buy It, Don't Do It Yourself."

Biddy culture goes some way to explain why DIY sheds have struggled to attract custom. Self-employed joiners, decorators and plumbers — the Biddy out-sources — do not buy from the retail sheds, but from builder's merchants.

Shares in the builder's merchant have stormed away this calendar year. Meyer International, one of Tempus's 1999 new year tips, has done very nicely, adding 26 per cent since January.

Wolseley is up by a similar amount and shares in Travis Perkins, which yesterday bought CRH's builder's merchant business, have risen from 35p in January to 60p

now. CRH's Keyline has been a headache for the Irish company for ages, but with the focus of being part of a pure merchant it should do better.

More widely, local competition between merchants is not as great as among DIY sheds, but the jobbing builder still buys in relatively modest bulk and wants to source locally. Biddies, therefore, hand merchants crucial pricing power.

There is more to be had at Travis, Wolseley, and Meyer.

Bioglan

BIOGLAN PHARMA's Terry Sadler is keen for the City to know that his company is not some spivvy biotech outfit but a real company with real sales and real profits.

So it is, but it is also one that is currently valued at 130 times its fully diluted earnings per share for last year — though this falls to a mere 84 times if you take Bioglan's preferred measure of eps, and to about 50 times on

current-year forecasts. The fragmented dermatology market provides Bioglan with plenty of opportunity to grow. Acne gels and eczema creams are too small to excite the interest of "big pharma", which is why Bioglan was able to pick up Zeneca's portfolio of products for £16 million last year. Bioglan, therefore, can continue its rapid growth by rolling out into continental Europe and the US.

None of this, however, is enough to justify the 95p rise in the shares since Bioglan's float last December. The market attached considerable value to Bioglan's drug delivery technologies that allow medicines to be taken via aerosols and wax sticks. The Biosphere technology for controlled release of proteins looks particularly interesting. But many of these projects remain at an early stage.

A decent company, but at 340p the shares are pricey.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

COFFEE	
May	67.60 (+0.15)
Jul	68.20 (+0.10)
Sep	68.80 (+0.10)
Dec	69.40 (+0.10)
Mar	70.00 (+0.10)
Volume	9401

ROBUSTA COFFEE	
May	141.40 (+1.50)
Jul	142.20 (+1.50)
Sep	143.00 (+1.50)
Dec	143.80 (+1.50)
Mar	144.60 (+1.50)
Volume	8622

WHITE SUGAR (ICE)	
May	12.45 (+0.10)
Jul	12.55 (+0.10)
Sep	12.65 (+0.10)
Dec	12.75 (+0.10)
Mar	12.85 (+0.10)
Volume	2138

MEAT & LIVESTOCK	
COMMODITIES	
May	12.45 (+0.10)
Jul	12.55 (+0.10)
Sep	12.65 (+0.10)
Dec	12.75 (+0.10)
Mar	12.85 (+0.10)
Volume	2138

ICE OILS (London 6.00pm)

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May	16.28 (+0.02)
Jul	16.38 (+0.02)
Sep	16.48 (+0.02)
Dec	16.58 (+0.02)
Mar	16.68 (+0.02)
Volume	9401

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May	16.28 (+0.02)
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MPUS
resh growth

The great partnership passes away

In 1998, Goldman Sachs went from strength to strength, earning more than a billion dollars in each of the first two quarters. Only 24 months after rejecting the notion of becoming a public company, the landscape — the firm's fortunes, the markets, and its competitors — had changed entirely. In December 1997, Jon Corzine (senior partner) had publicly stated that the majority of partners wanted the firm to remain private and that the issue of a public offering would not, he believed, be on the agenda in 1998. But the rampant bull market, which saw the Dow rise from 7,400 to 9,200 during the spring and continued to increase the valuations given to investment banks, as well as rapid consolidation in the securities industry, contributed to the firm's decision to reconsider its private status in a project aptly named Echo.

From 1995 to 1997, Goldman Sachs had watched Morgan Stanley merge with retail-based Dean Witter; Salomon Brothers combine forces with Smith Barney and Citibank; Union Bank of Switzerland join with Swiss Bank Corporation; and Bankers Trust purchase niche mergers and acquisition expert Alex Brown.

But perhaps the biggest threat to the firm's continuing existence as a private independent investment bank came not from these mergers but from Merrill Lynch's purchase of the massive Mercury Asset Management. Goldman Sachs may or may not have wanted to buy Mercury, but it probably did not have the option to do so. As a private company, with no stock, it would have been extremely difficult for the firm to spend the more than \$5 billion Merrill Lynch paid for the British fund manager. Early in 1998 Goldman Sachs had considered purchasing a stake in Garantia, the premier Brazilian investment bank, but the deal fell through. As other opportunities like this arose in asset management or bargains cropped up in the battered Asian economies, the firm was hamstrung without public shares to use as an acquisition currency. Some of the financial opportunities, as in the case of Merrill Lynch taking over bankrupt Yamaichi Securities or Salomon Brothers's investment in Nikko Securities at a time when the value of Japanese assets was depressed, would be short-lived, depending as they did on economic conditions that might soon change. The partners needed to act decisively and quickly if they were to capitalise on this window of opportunity.

"Structure follows strategy" was the watchword of the firm's newest committee, established in March as a sub-committee of the operating committee. Hank Paulson (vice-chairman) led a group of eight department heads in a review of the firm's strategy. The strategy committee was charged with surveying the terrain for the next five to ten years, imagining the world of 2008 and determining what kind of institution Goldman Sachs would be when it got there.

As they had done before the 1996 meeting, the partnership and operating committees held a joint meeting in New York in May to hear the strategy committee's report. This was a very different meeting than the one that had taken place two years earlier. And although most of the faces in the room were the same, the outcome would be entirely different.

At this two-day meeting the strategy committee laid before the most senior partners a plan

for vigorous expansion. The report rejected the notion of Goldman Sachs joining the ranks of banking behemoths. The firm would not rush out and combine forces with Chase Manhattan or JP Morgan, as had often been speculated. Goldman Sachs did not need to be a supermarket of financial services — the opportunities in its existing client and proprietary businesses were deemed more than ample for the firm to grow.

Goldman Sachs would continue down the path it had been on, albeit at a much faster pace. The firm had ambitious plans for expansion. Over the next five years the firm planned to double the number of people working in its client-serving business, which, it believed, would more than double the amount of revenue it earned. Building the firm's asset management through organic growth or small purchases, which is what the firm had done to date, was rejected in favour of much more aggressive acquisitions, particularly in Europe and Japan.

Many of the important strategic arguments — the possibility of making a large acquisition, defraying partners' risk, and facilitating rapid expansion — strongly suggested a sale. The lone hurdle was the cultural issue. One current partner feels that the issue boiled down to: "How do you walk in here the next day and look a guy in the face who has worked here for eight to ten years and tell him you've just taken away his opportunity to be a partner of the firm?"

Tension built as the fateful meeting approached. Corzine told all employees early in June that they needed to hang on a little longer until there was resolution and that the management was glad to be facing this decision in a period of strength without the backdrop of financial anxieties. He also announced that Paulson would be named co-chairman and co-CEO of the firm, a position equal to Corzine's. It was a return to the past, to a management formula that had worked so well for the firm before.

Going into the June 12 meeting many felt the decision could go either way. Everyone knew that in 1996, Corzine, Paulson, (Roy) Zuckerberg, and (Robert) Hurst had supported a sale, and many believed that they would again, yet there were widespread reports of opposition by the youngest members, (John) Thain and (John) Thornton. As in the two previous partnership-wide meetings on this subject, no one doubted that management would not proceed with a sale if it lacked the overwhelming support of the firm's owners. And because of the division within the executive committee, the threshold for support among the partners would need to be high — a simple majority would not suffice.

There was one crucial difference from the two earlier meetings. In 1986 the newest class of partners had only been on the job for six days and had almost no equity. In 1996, the equity of new 1994 partners was also relatively small, since 1995 was not a particularly strong year. But when the 1996 partners were asked to consider a public sale in 1998 they had already booked one record year and a second looked more than likely; therefore they would have much larger capital stakes to sell. Although it is always the most junior partners who are disadvantaged by a sale, in 1998, in part because of the inflated valua-



ON TUESDAY, Goldman Sachs will float on the New York Stock Exchange, so ending 130 years of partnership and turning hundreds of senior executives, including Hank Paulson, left, and Jon Corzine into multimillionaires. Twice before, in 1986 and 1996, Goldman came close to ending its partnership structure, but pulled back from the brink. In the first of two exclusive extracts from *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* by Lisa Endlich, the story of how Goldman finally decided to become a public company can be told.

tions the stock market had placed upon investment banks well into the summer months, for this group the economics would be compelling.

Goldman Sachs's 190 partners retreated on Friday, June 12, to the IBM Palisades executive conference centre north of New York City, where they cloistered themselves in a red brick and timber complex on top of a hill. Security was high, with extra plain clothes security guards on duty, and the entrances to the compound were closed. The location of the meeting had been kept secret, and many members of the press congregated at the Arrowwood conference centre, assuming the meeting would be there. Even with the extra security one journalist climbed over the fence and another tried to infiltrate the meeting using a fake ID card. As rain poured down outside, the partners faced what Paulson called a decision of "grave importance... one of the most important things the firm will ever do."

As had been the case in 1986 and 1996, the format of the two-day meeting included a presentation by the committee studying the firm's options, a 50-page folio of financial scenarios, and an open and spirited debate by the entire partnership. No one expected there to be a vote at this gathering; there was no formal proposal

and nothing to vote on. The partnership would signal its interest to the executive committee, and later, if it was deemed to be the will of the group, a specific proposal would be drawn up on which the partners would then vote.

Paulson spoke at the first session on Friday morning, and his words set the tone for the next two days. Paulson's goal was to make all partners in the room re-examine their position and rethink any assumptions they might have held before

addressed the group on a subject close to his heart — fairness. But first he felt a responsibility to read a letter he had received from John Weinberg and John Whitehead (former chiefs of Goldman Sachs) the previous afternoon. The two Johns were opposed to the partners' selling the firm. They believed strongly that "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Both were committed to the notion that the partnership was one of the things that had made the firm great and that it would be a mistake to tamper with it. Corzine had spoken to Weinberg, who had assured his successor that he would support wholeheartedly whatever decision the partners made. Those who heard Corzine speak rose remarks by reminding those assembled that Weinberg as well as other former Goldman chairmen, Robert E. Rubin, and Stephen Friedman had each, along with their management committees, at some point recommended that the firm go public. Corzine, who had been a member of each of those management committees, had supported the proposal each time and, without strongly advocating it now, supported it again.

By mid-morning on Saturday the leadership was done talking, and it was time to hear from the partnership. What followed was an impassioned debate, but nothing like the emotional response that had poured out in 1986. As had been the case in 1986 and 1996 the floor was opened for discussion and more than 100 partners stated their point of view. A discussion began in which the arguments, many of them eloquently framed, emerged in sharp relief. Each speaker emphasised his or her support for the outcome, whatever it might be, and after each speaker was finished there was a round of applause from the floor.

Goldman Sachs would never let a client have the capital structure the firm itself had, some partners argued. A global busi-

ness hoping to expand to more than 20,000 employees cannot rest on a capital base that has no permanence. In a risky cyclical business it makes no sense to expose the resources of a handful of people to the whims of the world's capital markets.

Those for and against felt that they had the issue of strategy on their side. The firm would not be able to make a large acquisition without stock, and without this ability it might be relegated to being a niche player, unable to compete for all of the top business.

The discussion, which was expected to end before lunch, went on until 2pm, with people going out to get food and returning to eat at their desks.

After the long open session each partner was asked to fill out an anonymous written questionnaire for submission to the executive committee asking which ownership format they preferred and why.

On Saturday afternoon at about 2:30 the meeting adjourned and the partners left the conference centre, some driving back to the city, some to the airport. They did not know what would happen next: the fate of the firm had been left in the hands of six men of differing opinions. There had been the overwhelming sense that a majority of those present supported the idea of selling the firm, but Corzine and Paulson had made it clear that a supermajority would be needed. The executive committee cloistered itself for the next 30 hours to review, reflect, and decide. They emerged from this meeting united, and announced to the world their belief that Goldman Sachs should sell a portion of the firm to the investing public. A detailed proposal would be drawn up for the partnership to vote on during the summer, and anticipating that there would be more than sufficient support from the partnership and hostile markets, the firm would have an initial public offering in the autumn of 1998.

Some were cynical about the firm's decision to go public. The same question asked two years earlier had yielded a resounding no. Partners talked endlessly about the value of partnership, but at the height of the greatest bull market in history they were willing to relinquish control of their firm. Others saw it differently, viewing the firm's continuing status as a private partnership as the result of inertia and nostalgia. A partnership, they believed, is an obsolete structure with which to operate a vastly expanding, global, risk-taking enterprise. The money, which they intended to spread to every employee of the firm, would only strengthen the organisation. Those who supported the change pointed out that far from being greedy, Goldman Sachs's leaders pushed for this move in 1996, when the firm would have sold

for not substantially more than its book value.

Some limited partners wondered about the wisdom of a public sale. Among those retired from the firm are partners who, when faced with the opportunity to sell as general partners, declined on the grounds that the partnership made the firm great. One limited partner went so far as to say: "A lot of us think there's a big danger here that you could kill a goose that, over the years, had laid an awful lot of golden eggs. Why in God's name would you want to tamper with something that has worked so well?" On the other side, many limited partners had voted to sell the firm in 1986, or supported the idea in 1996, but from the standpoint of personal gain their timing had not been perfect. Publicly, Friedman characterised the move as a way to husband scarce partnership capital. "We're in the longest stock market boom and the biggest one in history," he said with some prescience. "What you do is you store up your seed corn in the event of a bad period. One hears the rumour there used to be a time when stock markets went down."

On the day following the firm's announcement, its co-CEOs were on the defensive. A barrage of press speculation on how rich they and their partners would become had, they felt, missed the point of the sale. "Contrary to what you might read, we are not doing this because of the money. This is not about cashing out," Corzine asserted vehemently. "We intend to be the pre-eminent, independent global investment bank. We are going to be tough, and we will have the capital to compete." Paulson emphasised that the firm would not merge with a big bank or retail operation. The firm would use the capital provided by a public offering to do more of what it already did well, as a vehicle for growth.

Some of the post mortems mourned the passing of the last great Wall Street partnership, decrying the end of an era. Yet the importance of this transition, while historically interesting, is minimal to the industry. Did it matter that the industry leader was a private partnership able to conduct its business without focusing on the short term and the smooth flow of recurring earnings that stock markets applaud? Probably not. Goldman Sachs had slowly but surely been readying itself to become a public company. Now that the time for change had arrived, the transformation could be smoother and simpler than at any time in the firm's history. *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* is published by Little Brown, price £20

TOMORROW Goldman's role in the rise and fall of Robert Maxwell

the meeting. Partners remember that he made both cases, for going public and for staying private, in an exaggerated manner, causing everyone to consider the repercussions of their viewpoints.

In the evening, the partners met for a barbecue and what was billed as an entirely social evening. The atmosphere was a little like that in a college dormitory, as many partners watched the NBA playoffs on TV, while others milled in and out of game rooms and congregated in small groups in hallways and on stairs to discuss the burning issue of the moment. On Saturday morning Corzine

addressed the group on a subject close to his heart — fairness. But first he felt a responsibility to read a letter he had received from John Weinberg and John Whitehead (former chiefs of Goldman Sachs) the previous afternoon. The two Johns were opposed to the partners' selling the firm. They believed strongly that "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Both were committed to the notion that the partnership was one of the things that had made the firm great and that it would be a mistake to tamper with it. Corzine had spoken to Weinberg, who had assured his successor that he would support wholeheartedly whatever decision the partners made. Those who heard Corzine speak rose remarks by reminding those assembled that Weinberg as well as other former Goldman chairmen, Robert E. Rubin, and Stephen Friedman had each, along with their management committees, at some point recommended that the firm go public. Corzine, who had been a member of each of those management committees, had supported the proposal each time and, without strongly advocating it now, supported it again.

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Trust fund

I HAD the impression that the merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust was taking ages. But it seems the deal is advancing too fast for Bankers Trust, which has to make extra payouts to staff who will not be retained in order to comply with EU law.

The requirement is that everyone involved must be interviewed to assess if there is a post for them in the merged firm. Unfortunately, there is

not enough time to see individually all 2,500 Bankers Trust staff in the City and the other 1,000-odd in Edinburgh, and anyway, it is already pretty clear who is not wanted on the voyage, so to speak.

Some dealers are on contracts that can be terminated at a month's notice, on either side — but only if they are "interviewed" first. The bank has checked with Brussels, and the way around this is to pay them a minimum of three months' money, whether or not they have jobs to go to elsewhere.

TRULY bizarre scenes at the Institute of Directors' annual convention. The organisers, in an effort to entertain proceedings, had crafted an interlude in which children acted out little scenes giving their views on the way business operates.

Enter Mr Sock. The impromptu star of the Albert Hall was perched on the shoulder of one of the young narrators to give prompts and a sort of mime version of what was going on. Mr Sock, however,



was just that, a hand in a sock, and was understandably limited to waves and other such simple gestures. None of which made a lot of sense or were much appreciated by an increasingly embarrassed audience. One senses that like Peter Mandelson, speaker at last year's convention, Mr Sock will not be asked back.

Prize bore

THOSE surveys of which brokers and merchant banks are most popular with the fund managers are becoming about as exciting and unpredictable

as the old Comintern elections. An audible groan went through the City audience at the Reuters/Tempest Consultants award ceremony yesterday, the third time that Merrill Lynch plipped Warburg Dillon Read to the top.

Even worse is the polarisation of analysts. Of the 1,300 identified by the survey, half received no votes at all from any fund manager. (Cue another groan, more heartfelt this time). The top 10 per cent now account for more than two-fifths of all votes cast, and most of them work for the top three brokers, the two above plus BT Alex Brown. And those top three get two-fifths of all the commission earned by the City.

No show

THE first award at the Tempest/Reuters ceremony, for the fund manager most popular with finance directors, went to Donald Tosh at Legal & General. When he was called to pick up his award, there was an embarrassing silence.

"Donald Tosh? Is Donald Tosh here?" Nope. Tosh and the rest of the UK equities team at L&G chose yesterday for a morale-building "away day", at which they lock them-

selves away and think deep strategic thoughts. Or something like that.

SOME excuses you simply cannot make up. The West Anglia Great Northern rail line, from King's Cross to Peterborough, has an excellent performance record. However, under "events outside our control" the operator this month admitted to: "Nude trespassers on the line."

Mutual aid

THE Yorkshire Building Society has dug the Bradford & Bingley out of a hole by agreeing to sponsor the Building Societies Association annual conference next month. The B&B had promised the money, but this week's surprise vote for conversion means that I doubt anyone from there will dare to show their face in Harrogate. But the money was still due until the Yorkshire decided to step in. Derek Roberts, chairman, says the only problem is filling the extra table of ten at the BSA dinner. Don't be discouraged. Harrogate in May sounds fine to me.

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



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Young warns of US trade war

as "irritations". He said he was trying to "lower the decibel level" over the trade rows.

Boards are abdicating to false Messiahs

Rand V Araskog, who ruled ITT as chairman, president and chief executive officer to prove he was in charge.

Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999

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How far will tax tide rise?

Keith Daniels on the subtle forces that are exerting pressure for fiscal harmonisation throughout the EU

I recently addressed an audience of UK executives on the issues surrounding attempts to promote harmonisation of corporate taxation throughout Europe. To my surprise, although the topic was well understood, there was little appreciation of the degree to which UK tax law has already been influenced by the European dimension.

However, all those present sensed a hidden agenda to raise the burden of corporate taxes as high as practicable, and the focus moved to the rates of corporate tax charged throughout Europe. Rates, though, are not the key driver in this debate. The tax base to which they are applied is far more significant.

As Gordon Brown has shown more than once on occasion, the Government can raise additional tax revenue by careful manipulation of the tax base while cutting headline rates to attract favourable media coverage.

The top-down approach to European tax harmonisation, as tried in Germany, has seemed to run into the buffers and other issues have emerged to attract the media's attention. But is that the end of the matter? In my view, it is not.

We have ceded part of our

sovereignty to Europe already. Principles of European law can be used to challenge domestic legislation, and UK courts are becoming more confident in giving rulings based on these principles. Harmonisation of the tax system by judicial interpretation will take a very long time, but the process will grind on and common interpretations will result.

The much-criticised proposed directive on a common system of applying withholding tax to interest has caused a stir, particularly in London's eurobond market. The essence of the directive is to counter evasion of personal tax due on undisclosed deposits held outside a tax authority's jurisdiction.

However, as originally drafted, the directive would potentially cause the eurobond market to seek a new home outside the EU, and thousands of jobs would be at risk.

The national veto could be used to defeat the European Commission's proposals, but clearly it would be preferable if an accommodation could be reached that did not require use of such a blunt instrument. This attempt at harmonisation can be seen as an unwelcome visitor coming through the political front door. Yet there are other



Keith Daniels says court rulings may foster harmonisation

er more subtle harmonisation steps occurring at the political back door.

A fundamental principle of international law is that one nation will not normally enforce collection of another's tax. Last year, the Commission recommended a directive amendment that, if adopted, might require the Inland Revenue prospectively to enforce collection of

counting standards are gaining in credibility, but it may be many years before universal recognition is secured. The information age will also have its effect. With modern electronic communications, does each company in a group require its own support services? Shared service centres are becoming a reality, with one company in a worldwide group providing, say, the accounts function to all group members. Differences between jurisdictions are thereby highlighted, which may influence investment decisions.

Tax competition, too, will play a part. Globally mobile investment will be drawn to jurisdictions with attractive fiscal regimes. Losers will complain of unfair competition, but eventually will play the same game or face damaging economic consequences. A common currency may be a precursor to further political, social and economic integration in Europe. The Big Bang approach to tax harmonisation is unlikely ever to succeed, but there are other agents. Court rulings, international accounting harmonisation and integration of big multinationals will all influence the pace and direction of change.

Just as an incoming tide, harmonisation will eventually reach a high water mark.

Keith Daniels is President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and a KPMG partner

Judgment call on internal controls

There is but one problem with the Turnbull report. The appliance of judgment is considered old hat. This is unfortunate because the report depends, quite rightly, on the directors of listed companies reaching conclusions based on judgment and then communicating them to shareholders.

The whole area of internal controls has been fraught for the same reasons. While other areas of corporate governance have been sorted out so that a combined code now exists and is in force, the business of internal controls has had a convoluted journey.

It has gone through many permutations since it was advocated by the original Cadbury code. But now it has come home in a good and challenging form. Once it was suggested that only financial internal controls should be subject to corporate governance guidance. Now it has been widened to include everything in the burgeoning internal controls basket.

So directors will now have to have a review system embedded within the company enabling them to reach a view on everything from risk management and fraud to health and safety and environmental factors.

The report, named after its chairman, Nigel Turnbull, the Rank Group's finance director, states that "a company's system has as its principal aim the management of risks that are significant to the fulfilment of its business objectives with a view to safeguarding the company's assets and enhancing over time the value of shareholders' investment". In short, this stuff deals with the heart of a company. If this goes wrong then the company goes down. "Internal control," Turnbull will tell you, "takes governance right into the heart of business."

This may not go down well with company directors. Nor will Turnbull's view that the result of the processes that his report unleashes "forces the board of directors to understand the business".

To an outsider this may seem odd. What are directors doing there if they do not understand the business?

What Turnbull is getting at is that many directors take a similar view to Sir Ronald Hampel of ICI when he ran the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance. Underlying it is the idea that companies should be prosperous and all this corporate governance stuff just gets in the way. Turnbull knows that directors ought to understand the internal controls, but they tend to just assume that these things happen.

With the new guidance in place, this com-

pany will no longer be possible. The system will have to be embedded in the company. Boards of directors will have stringent responsibilities to assess the effectiveness of those systems and ensure that all weaknesses are being remedied.

They will have to monitor changes in the system and then disclose their findings in the annual report. There they will have to report that they have reviewed the system's effectiveness and disclose any material failings and what they have done, or intend doing, about them.

The intention is to avoid "boilerplate" corporate governance statements where a verbal formula clouds any understanding. Roger Davis, the head of professional affairs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, was the deputy chairman of the Turnbull committee. He is an enthusiast for companies explaining clearly. "If you pick up ICT's report, you find it is all boilerplate," he said. "The shareholders cannot make anything of it."

The report is a breakthrough. But the enthusiasm for judgment being exercised and its results being reported goes against the grain of the corporate world.

Company directors, and their auditors, both internal and external, have come to hate the idea of judgment these days. Partly, it is the problem of litigation. If you exercise judgment and things go wrong, then the lawyers will be set upon you.

This is not just typical within companies. As the senior partner of one of the largest firms put it to me last week, society in general is now much more intolerant of failure. People come under greater fire for failure. So they prefer to follow rules they can then either cite or blame, depending on the results of their actions. And that makes them safer should litigation follow.

Once upon a time, accountants used their judgment first and then, only secondly, checked to see if the chosen solution was in line with the existing rules. Now the process tends to be the other way round.

This makes the place of the Turnbull report a difficult one. The hope is that companies will see greater benefit in explaining things to stakeholders and increasing the worth and stability of their business by so doing.

If everyone instead pulls down the shutters and goes off to consult the lawyers then businesses are hardly likely to retain their dynamism. It is time for arguments on the issue of how judgment gives you a competitive edge.



ROBERT BRUCE

Running just to stand still

ASK most senior people in the Big Five accountancy firms what worries them most and they tend to respond: "Recruiting more good people to keep growth running at high levels."

Certainly, the message seems to have hit home at KPMG. It has a poster campaign running that shows an athlete bursting through the winning tape in a heady mix of achievement and triumph. The message reads: "Know how it feels" and gives you the

telephone number of KPMG Consulting.

Commuters walking across London Bridge into the City have been puzzled that one of these massive posters has been stuck on the roof of a barge moored beside the bank of the Thames below.

This may seem to be an odd place to have a poster. Not so. It is placed directly opposite the glass walls that constitute London Bridge City, home of the consulting business of rival firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bonding

HISTORY was made at the Scots ICA annual meeting. For the first time, an accountancy body has voted to allow non-accountants, lay people, on its council. People were casting around as to who might qualify for the two places that will be set aside for less numerate but interested people.

Representatives of consumers' bodies and the like were suggested. But the institute really doesn't have to look that far. Sean Connery is sub-

thumping his way around the hills and glens at the moment with a view to doing worrying things with a claymore to opposing politicians. The actor would certainly shake up a council meeting.

Image problem

ACCOUNTANTS are famously those people who never own up to their real occupation at parties. But it may all be changing. There is another business which, by all accounts, reckons that its image

has plummeted as low as it can go. And that is information technology.

According to a report in *MicroScope* magazine, the chief executive of Cap Gemini in the UK has taken to the conference platform to thunder that "this industry is not just made up of techies and nerds but intelligent and educated people".

And Alan Stevens, chief executive of EDS in the UK, took the doom-laden task to its logical conclusion. "We have lost the battle with accountancy," he said. "That has a much better image than we do."

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal

Adverse possession claim fails

Earnshaw and Others v Hartley
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Buxton and Sir Christopher Staughton
[Judgment March 31]

A beneficiary of an unadministered estate who was in possession of land comprised in that estate for a period exceeding 12 years could not maintain a claim to adverse possession of the land for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Limitation Act 1980. Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to that Act applied to prevent a right of action from being treated as accruing during that time.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mrs Josephine Hartley, from the judgment on a preliminary issue in favour of the plaintiffs, Mrs Ann Earnshaw, Mrs Marion Robinson and Mrs Lucy Fielden, by Judge Barry sitting in Halifax County Court on January 11, 1999, that had the effect of defeating the defendant's claim to title by adverse possession to Heighly Top Farm, Cornholme, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act provides: "Where any settled land or any land held on trust for sale is in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale (not being a person solely or absolutely entitled to the land or the proceeds), no right of action to recover the land shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as accruing during that possession to any person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale."

Mr Paul Creaner for Mrs Hart-

ley; Mr Barry Coulter for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the property had been acquired in 1948 by William Hyde Hartley who was married to Mary Hartley. They had a son and three daughters. Mr Hartley died intestate in 1965, his widow becoming the sole legal and beneficial owner of the farm. Thereafter the son, not then married, lived with his mother at the farm until her death in 1983. She also died intestate.

No grant of letters of administration to her estate was obtained at that stage. Thus, by virtue of section 9 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 her real and personal estate, including the farm, vested in the President of the Family Division until administration.

After Mary Hartley's death the son continued to live at the farm on his own. For present purposes it was to be assumed that he was in possession of it. In October 1995 the son married the defendant and made a will appointing her sole executrix and devising his estate to her absolutely. The son died in November 1998.

Thereafter the three daughters, the plaintiffs, sought the sale of the farm, maintaining that they were each entitled to a quarter of the net proceeds. The defendant maintained that the son and she successively had been in adverse possession of the farm since Mary Hartley's death in 1963, a period of more than 12 years, and that she, by succession and in her own right, had acquired a possessory title to it.

On the daughters obtained a grant of letters of administration to their mother's estate and commenced the action seeking, inter

alia, an order for the sale of the farm.

The judge, hearing the issue of adverse possession as a preliminary issue, upheld the plaintiffs' case that the defendant's claim to adverse possession was on a footing defeated by paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act.

Mr Coulter argued that at all material times the farm was "in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale", namely the son, and the plaintiffs were other persons "entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale".

Mr Creaner's contrary argument was based on a literal interpretation of paragraph 9. He pointed out, correctly, that it was expressed to apply to settled land, which was not this case, or to land held on trust for sale.

He said that while the farm was vested in the President of the Family Division it was not held on trust for sale so that paragraph 9 could not, and did not apply during that period.

Further, it was argued, even if it could be said that the farm was held on trust for sale, neither the son nor any of the daughters had a beneficial interest in the proceeds of sale, but only a right to require the mother's estate to be duly administered and to receive a quarter share of the net estate on completion of the administration: see *Commissioner of Stamp Duties (Queensland) v Livingston* (1965) AC 694 and *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* (1970) Ch 271.

Being in this position, purpose and antecedents, Mr Creaner's interpretation of paragraph 9 was unacceptable. Its predecessor, un-

pressed in substantially the same terms, was in section 7(5) of the Limitation Act 1939.

The broad effect of those provisions could be said to have been the reintroduction of the doctrine of non-adverse possession among beneficial co-owners of land, allowance being made for the trust for sale which the Law of Property Act 1925 had made an inevitable feature of such ownership. Against that background it would be wrong to give paragraph 9 the literal interpretation which Mr Creaner put on it.

Although it was no doubt correct to say that the President of the Family Division, while the farm was vested in him, was not a trustee of it and that it was not held on trust for sale during that period, it was presumptively so held and it would be artificial for limitation purposes to distinguish between the state of affairs existing before and after the grant of administration.

It would be equally artificial for limitation purposes to hold that after the grant had caused the trust for sale, under section 33 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 to take effect, the son and the daughters did not have beneficial interests in the land.

As Mr Justice Buckley had said in *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* (at p282) a person absolutely entitled to a share of an unadministered estate did have an interest of a kind in the assets comprised in it. Such an interest was a sufficient interest for the purposes of paragraph 9.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a concurring judgment and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Waddington & Son, Burnley; Ursula Bagnall & Co, Totnes.

Regina v Rolfe Screw and Rivet Co Ltd and Others

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Joffe and Mr Justice Auld
[Judgment March 26]

Where a company and its directors were convicted of offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the court should ensure that the financial penalties imposed were appropriate to mark the gravity of the case.

Although in a small company the directors might also be the shareholders so that any double punishment should be avoided, the penalties fixed should make clear that directors had a personal responsibility which could not be shielded off by the company.

In considering the period over which a financial penalty might be ordered to be payable, the court could properly fix a longer period in the case of a corporate defendant than in the case of an individual defendant.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, sitting at Birmingham, so held when considering appeals against sentences by Rolfe Screw and Rivet Co Ltd following its pleas of guilty to offences under section 2(1) and 3(1) of the 1974 Act in respect of a serious incident of asbestos contamination in 1997 and 1998.

(i) hearing applications for leave to appeal against sentences by the company's directors, Bernard Rose and Philip Rose, who had pleaded guilty to the same offences.

The company was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £30,000 costs. Judge Harris, QC, directed that £5,000 of the total be paid within the first 12 months, and the balance at the rate of £1,000 a month. The total period for payment, in the absence of accelerated payment, was six years and five months.

Mr Bernard Rose was fined £6,000, to be paid at £1,000 a month and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Mr Philip Rose was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

The Court of Appeal refused their applications but reduced the sum payable by way of costs to £20,000 by the company.

Mr Kevin Hegarty for the company and the directors; Mr Mark Eades for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to and gave unqualified support to the observations of Mr Justice Scott Baker in *R v F Howe & Sons (Engineering) Ltd* (The Times November 27, 1998; [1999] 2 All ER 249, 253 to 255) which amounted to a clear and correct statement of the principles which should guide the court in the present kind of case.

His Lordship turned to the question, raised squarely by the present appeal, of the period over which a fine might properly be ordered to be payable.

Mr Hegarty had submitted that the length contemplated here was well beyond the period which the court should sanction and that there was no distinction to be drawn for that purpose between a personal and a corporate defendant.

His Lordship said that it was plain from *R v Olliver* ([1989] 1 Cr App R (S) 10, 15) per Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, that the court there was at pains to avoid stipulating any period which should not be exceeded in a proper case.

Nonetheless with a personal defendant, with a fine hanging over him, there were arguments for keeping the period of that continuing punishment within bounds. Those arguments were much weaker, if indeed they applied at all, when one was considering a corporate defendant.

There was not the same sense of anxiety as was liable to afflict an individual, and it was acceptable on proper facts and in appropriate circumstances for a fine to be payable by a company over a substantially longer period than might be appropriate in the case of an individual.

His Lordship would, however, accept Mr Hegarty's further submission, that the court should avoid a risk of overlap. In a small company the directors were likely to be the shareholders and therefore the main losers if a severe sanction was imposed on the company. The court had to be alert to ensure that it was not in effect imposing double punishment.

On the other hand, it was important in many cases that fines should be imposed which made it quite clear that there was a personal responsibility on directors and that they could not simply shuffle off their responsibilities to the corporation of which they were directors.

The proper approach to a case of the present kind in principle was to pose two questions:

- 1 What financial penalty did the offence merit?
- 2 What financial penalty could a defendant, whether corporate or personal, reasonably be ordered to meet?

That second question inevitably raised the question of time.

Turning to the instant case the court concluded on the first question that the total penalty imposed on the company and the directors of £50,000, split as to £40,000 payable by the company and £10,000 by the directors, was, in the circumstances, appropriate recognition of the gravity of the offending.

On the second question, the company had submitted that its means were such that together with the costs order the total sum of £70,000 payable was grossly excessive and not an amount it could meet.

The court had been supplied with a quantity of accounting material, not all before the judge, which caused it to reconsider the time for payment.

As already indicated, a longer period for payment was acceptable in the case of a company than

would often be acceptable in that of an individual.

Also, it was not necessarily a more severe course to order a larger sum over a longer period than a smaller sum over a shorter period, since the former course might well give a company a greater opportunity to control its cash flow and survive difficult trading conditions.

If, despite a long period, the company had the means or chose to pay sooner than it needed, that was

a course open to it. In the result, the total period for payment was excessive and with some hesitation the court would reduce it; not by reducing the fine, but by reducing to some extent the sum of costs to be paid, from £30,000 to £20,000, thus shortening the overall period of payment from six years and five months to five years and seven months.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Mr Stephen Swan, Southwark.

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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

Appeal court must give reasons

Regina v Snaresbrook Crown Court, Ex parte Input Management Ltd
Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Bofield
[Judgment March 4]

On an appeal from a magistrates' court, the crown court was obliged to provide proper reasons for its decision at the time of the decision or immediately after it, so that a defendant could know the reasons as soon as reasonably possible, see the nature of the criminality found to exist and properly to consider whether to appeal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an application by Input Management Ltd for judicial review of the decision of Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Kallukuda and Justices) on June 15, 1998 not to provide Input with proper reasons for their decision to reject its appeal against convictions before Redbridge Justices on November 4, 1997.

Input was convicted under section 33(1)(a) and (c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 of:

- (i) failing to discharge its duty under section 3(1)(a) as an employer to ensure so far as reasonably practicable that persons outside its employment were not exposed to health and safety risks and
- (ii) failing to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of health and safety risks to persons outside its employment under section 3(1)(a) and (b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (SI 1992 No 2051).

Mr Kevin De Hoon for the applicant; Mr David Travers for Redbridge London Borough Council; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said the applicant company engaged a contractor to install a one-way mirror ball at its nightclub. Following faulty installation, the ball fell, injuring two people and the applicant was convicted.

On appeal to the crown court the applicant argued that because it had done all that was reasonably practicable to ensure safe installation by employing reputable con-

tractors, it had complied with its duty under section 3(1) of the 1974 Act and had not breached its duty under the 1992 Regulations.

At the end of the hearing, the judge and justices retired and upon return the judge announced that the court found the allegations proved, was not proposing to give reasons, and that the sentence would be increased to a fine substantially greater than that given to the contractor.

Following requests by the applicant for reasons for the decision to dismiss the appeal and increase the fine, the judge merely said that the applicant ought to have checked that the ball was working properly. No proper reasons were given for the disparity of sentence that arose as a result between the contractor and the applicant, who could have been considered less culpable.

After leave to move for judicial review was granted, the judge sent a note signed by himself and prepared some time after the appeal to the Divisional Court. His Lordship said that the court could not have

regard to the note as it was not supported by affidavit nor signed by the other justices.

Even if it could, the applicant ought to have been provided with proper reasons at the time of the decision or immediately afterwards. His Lordship, adopting the reasoning of the court in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Nelson* (unreported, May 11, 1994), said that the applicant ought to have known as soon as could be reasonably ascertained what the reasons were in order that he could be assured and have no suspicion that there was no substantive rationalisation, see the nature of criminality found by the court to exist and properly consider whether to apply for a case to be stated.

The crown court failed to fulfill its obligation to give reasons within a reasonable time and what was done subsequently was not a satisfactory substitute. The case would be remitted to a differently constituted crown court.

Solicitors: Downs, Dorking; Mr Eddie Davie, Redbridge.

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1.19	Univ. of Penn	101.30	64.75	-	0.50	-do- Accn	596.69	636.67	-	3.29	

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Intl Growth Inc	593.45	1059.96	- 0.67	0.04	Equity Trust	126.10	132.72	+ 1.89	1.78	Star Jet Gld Acc	25.82	- 0.00	
de-Accum	1004.52	1071.77	- 0.69	0.04	Equity Strategy	126.20	134.93	+ 2.10	0.89	Japan Gld Acc	44.64	- 0.32	
Income &	726.85	777.151	+ 4.01	2.47	European Opt	165.22	173.89	+ 2.73	0.69	Jap Sm Cos Gld	88.53	+ 0.11	
Model Portfolio					US Sm Growth					Latin Amer Gld	38.40	- 0.78	0.04

0.10	PEP Growth	222.32	232.50	- 0.12	0.62	Japan	58.23	174.20	- 0.10	0.97	Asia Growth Acc :	38.44	- 0.59	0.72
3.60	Asian Str Index Inc	187.18	177.18	- 0.35	0.09	Americas	61.78	- 0.31			Euro Gwth Acc :	65.05	- 0.82	0.41
3.60	-do- Accoun	100.11	102.02	- 1.59	0.25	Far East Tact	203.15	214.58	- 0.99	0.54	Euro Sel Gth Acc :	68.52	- 0.21	0.97
				- 1.63	0.75		73.56	78.46	- 1.12	1.06				

[illegible]

145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598
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Equities trade in narrow limits

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
61.5	4.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

BANKS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

CHEMICALS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

CONSTRUCTION

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

DISTRIBUTORS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ELECTRICITY

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ENGINEERING

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

INSURANCE

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

HEALTHCARE

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

LEISURE & HOTELS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

MINING

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

PROPERTY

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

Yet another charity trying to get as much as it can out of people. Realising Potential. John Grooms works in partnership with disabled people to improve their quality of life, to maximise their freedom of choice, to respect their dignity at all times and to achieve a level of independence appropriate to their needs and desires.

For information on how you can make the difference call 0800 13 88 111.

John Grooms Working with Disabled People Reg. Charity No. 212483

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

UNDATED

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

BANKS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

CHEMICALS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

CONSTRUCTION

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

DISTRIBUTORS

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1.5	1.5	Adnams	10.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

40- 32	25- 8	Car Group Ford	25- 22
2333	1804	Glenn Valley	1829	-	34	19 41
302-	254	Gonsfield	279	-	1	1.1 32
378-	227	St. Barnabas	374	-	1	
197-	75	Am. Laboratories	178	-		
127	94	Melroe	108	-	24	53 8
129-	33	Quaker Motorcycle	68	-		
128-	165	Purdie Thess	102	-		
283	160	Prologica	245	-	3	
1000	503	Powderco	802	-	24	
50	30	Printed Ink	45	-		



THEATRE

Blanchett
excels in night
of Plenty

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THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

The man who
makes the
world turn

PAGE 39



NEW MOVIES: James Christopher sees future shock played for laughs in the amiably flesh-crawling *eXistenZ*

Cronenberg's tricks of the light

David Cronenberg has never let good taste sabotage his futuristic movies. In his latest creation, *eXistenZ*, he shows no signs of relenting. As in his previous film, *Crash*, there are bits that make you wince. But here the horror is infinitely more playful and as fabulously baroque as anything he's dreamt up before. How much of *eXistenZ* is knowing comedy, and how much of it is just inadvertently corny, is the most enjoyable puzzle of this intriguing film.

The near future is crawling with mutant swamp life from poisoned rivers. Society is hooked on virtual-reality computer games. The corporations that make them are the multi-billion-dollar powerbrokers. The new superstars are the game designers. And the ultimate nerd is Jennifer Jason Leigh's grungy, reclusive Allegra Geller, the creator of *eXistenZ*, a game that taps so deeply into its users' fears and desires that it blurs the boundaries between reality and escapism. The rules of the game, indeed its very point, are defined by the players themselves: their morals, their principles, their psychological ticks. It's virtual existentialism.

When anti-game fanatics attempt to assassinate Leigh she is forced to flee in the company of Jude Law's marketing trainee, who has never played a computer game in his life. Leigh needs Law to enter the game with her to assess the damage done to her priceless computer pod, a sort of organic vibrating jelly. The problem is that the pod plugs straight into the nervous system via an umbilical cord and a socket in the spinal column. Getting one of these fitted to the less than enthusiastic Law—"I have this phobia about having my body penetrated"—is one of the funniest and squelchiest moments in the film. As in his last original script, *VideoDrome* (1982), Cronenberg is mesmerised by the thought of fusing flesh and machine.

But the beauty of *eXistenZ* is that it is disturbingly close to reality. The game transports Law and Leigh to a sort of urban warehouse land where they are pursued by corporate spies and a bloodthirsty, extremist group of "realists" out to collect the \$5 million bounty on Leigh's head. The game engenders psychosis, and any



"Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist", but you can't hold Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh responsible for the ultimate failure of *eXistenZ*

number of eye-popping twists. Law and Leigh become labourers on a production line where grubby workers hack up mutant frogs for biotech parts, and take their lunch breaks in a ghastly Chinese restaurant. Here Law, after chomping his way through the equivalent of Naked Lunch, uses the gristle and bone to construct a gun which he uses to murder the wailer with a well-aimed human molar. Ian Holm's crackpot German inventor and Willem Dafoe's gas station mechanic, flashing his familiar manic toothy grin, pop up like arcade cameos.

The real problem lies in identifying with the central characters, neither of whom

plugged into my nervous system. The moody, sexy Leigh is convincingly obsessive. Law is endearingly bemused. But in a film where absolutely everything is not as it seems, it is impossible to get involved. There are nags and teases that itch away long after the final credits have rolled, but Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist. Neil Jordan's paranoid thriller, *In Dreams*, also plays with levels of reality. I have never seen a more stunning opening, in which police divers search for the victims of a serial killer in a town that lies like a grave at the bottom of a lake. But, despite feeding on a parent's worst nightmare

—the murder of an only child—Bruce Robinson's script fails to live up to this masterly visual suspense. Annette Bening plays a housewife whose dreams of orchards and frightened children turn out to be premonitions of a serial killer's intentions. But the fact that no one, including her husband (Aidan Quinn), believes her is the film's real nightmare. Her psychiatrist, Stephen Rea, sees madness where he should see clairvoyance. The camera charts Bening's disintegration with the slick, predatory feel of a stalker. It is an extraordinary performance by Bening, who has to lose her mind in the killer's imagination to prove her sanity. You can see the hysteria in her eyes and hear the fear plucking at her throat as her dreams are besieged by the killer's personality.

You can also see exactly what beguiled Jordan. Dream logic is one of the most powerful tools of suspense. Unfortunately it doesn't always chime with the prosaic business of a Hollywood plot. The moment Bening's fears are made flesh—the moment, in fact, that

Robert Downey Jr's madman steps into frame—is the moment Jordan's bubble of suspense is popped. The magic evaporates. The horror turns to schlock. What's hinted at but never explored is why Bening should be the conduit for Downey's diseased thoughts. Therein lies the better film.

al Kilmer stars as a blind masseur in the first of the week's three sticky, slow-burning romances. At *First Sight*, based on a true case documented by Dr Oliver Sacks, is potentially the most interesting. Having fallen in love with a New York architect, Mira Sorvino, Kilmer is persuaded to undergo an operation that might restore the sight he lost as a toddler. The suspense is pinned to the statistic that only 20 such successful reversals have taken place over the past 200 years.

As the title implies, it is a success. But, rather than leaping about with delight, Kilmer is traumatised. Images slew across his sightlines, sickeningly out of focus. His blind assumptions about the world are

shattered as he crashes into shop windows, looks blankly at faces and freaks out at parties. It's a powerful performance, full of penitence and frustration. Understandably, the director, Irwin Winkler, is far keener on exploring Kilmer's dislocation than massaging the tedious love interest. Needless to say, so is Kilmer. Sorvino's thankless task is to pick up the pieces and act confused. The result is a romance that is horribly lopsided and underhand of more interest to medical students than lovers.

Somewhat I can't see Germaine Greer or Andrea Dworkin breaking into a muck sweat over Marshall Herskovitz's feminist romp set in 16th-century Venice. The *Honest Courtesan* is such a frothy package it dissolves almost as soon as it reaches the screen.

Frustrated in her love for Rufus Sewell's roaring aristocrat, Catherine McCormack's low-born poet sets about carving her glamorous emancipation in Italy's glossiest brothel, the Venetian Court. Under the expert tutelage of her mother (Jacqueline Bisset), McCormack's lusty virgin is primed and briefed like James Bond. "Courtesans are the most educated women in the world," instructs the unflappable Bisset. "They can seduce a man at 20 paces with their mind." Hmm. Her great cleavage helps.

Having learnt how to devour bananas as if they were the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate bar in the world, McCor-

mack beds a procession of drooling senators and fat bishops, and even spansks the French King into submission. To spice up the grand romance, Sewell is sent packing to Cyprus to fight a war, the Plague promptly arrives and kills 56,000 people, and the Inquisition bowls into town. There's clearly something here for everyone.

Paul Morrison's *Solomon & Gaenor* is a sharp antidote to the above frippery. In a Welsh mining town, circa 1911, an illicit romance is meticulously hatched between a young Jewish immigrant (Joan Gruffudd) and prim local girl (Nia Roberts). They are both poor as peanuts. He sells cloth for his stern parents. She fills tin baths for her Protestant coalmining father and her bruise brother, the wonderfully named Crad (Mark Lewis Jones). Snatched kisses lead to passion in the hayloft. But Solomon's refusal to reveal his Jewish identity—he calls himself Sam and won't introduce Roberts to his parents—puts him in a morally intolerable position. The stakes couldn't be higher, what with strikes, pit closures and the suspicious

eXistenZ
Warner Village
West End, 15, 92 mins
Futuristic horror from David Cronenberg

In Dreams
Empire, 18, 100 mins
Neil Jordan's nightmare thriller

At First Sight
Plaza, 12, 129 mins
Val Kilmer as blind beefcake

The Honest Courtesan
Virgin Haymarket
15, 111 mins
Soppy Venetian romance

Solomon & Gaenor
Screen-on-the-Hill
15, 104 mins
Love among the coalmines

The Waterboy
Odeon West End
12, 90 mins
College freak makes good

Knock Off
Virgin Trocadero
18, 91 mins
Rip-off

Crad nursing fists the size of jack-hammers. The dung inevitably hits the fan. There are humiliations, batterings, heartache and raging blizzards to be negotiated. Thomas Hardy would be hard-pushed to pen a more angst-ridden melodrama. But, despite the final excesses, the romance holds firm around an enchanting performance by Roberts's mousey temptress, whose emotions ring as true as her grim surroundings.

There is nothing enchanting about Frank Coraci's film. *The Waterboy*. A college football team from "Rebelsville, Louisiana" ends a losing streak when the simple-minded weed who dishes out the water turns into a nuclear-charged demolition man. Adam Sandler plays the 31-year-old incompetent routinely humiliated by cross-eyed team-mates. Even respectable old ladies could be forgiven for giving him a casual kicking. Fuelled by grudges and bent out of shape by his mother (Kathy Bates, reprising for the umpteenth time all the perverted charms of her *Misery* character), Sandler becomes the hero of the Southern misfits.

Despite the nonsense it is surprisingly full of gut laughs. Henry Winkler is wonderful as the depressed coach, terminally on the point of tears, but Sandler has neither the class nor wit to clone Tom Hanks's similarly challenged ingenue in *Forrest Gump*.

Even hardcore Van Damme fans will wince at his latest stunt fest. *Knock Off* is a numbing medley of kung fu fights, sadistic Russians and double-dealing with CIA agents. Jackie Chan has made an artform out of this kind of film. Van Damme makes a pig's ear out of it.

★★★★★
Celia Duncan, COMPANY

"HUGELY ENTERTAINING"
Henry Fitzherbert, SUNDAY EXPRESS

"PERFECTION" "HILARIOUS"
James Christopher, THE TIMES
FILM REVIEW

"WONDERFUL" "SPARKLING"
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Hurt's so good

WHEN actresses reach a certain age, they often complain that the good parts are not being written for them any more. If only they were vocalists, they could turn to the bitter-sweet creations of Amanda McBroom.

Not that the West Coast singer-songwriter's work can be defined purely by age or gender. What she captures so adroitly is the wishfulness of dreams deferred, ambitions unfulfilled, marriages sinking into what her song *Dance* terms "comfortable despair". Songs as haunting and ethereal as *Ship in a Bottle* pin down stray emotions as precisely as an Anne Tyler novel.

This might sound like an excuse to wallow in Californian self-pity. It is certainly true that McBroom's heart-on-sleeve style can come as a shock to the British system. But she balances the pathos and anguish with humour.

Standards old and new are carefully filtered into the mix. Segues abound, and McBroom and her flamboyant accompanist Joel Silberman self-consciously stitched together the verse of *Bewitched*, *Bothered and Bewildered* and the refrain of *My Funny Valentine*. She and the worldly Lorenz Hart made a good combination nonetheless.

Jacques Brel provides another source of inspiration, notably in the audacious and dem-

mented waltz that is *Carousel*. Inexorably gathering speed, until the words teeter on the edge of glibberish, the song brought all of McBroom's acting skills to bear.

A more sedate waltz tempo underpins *Erol Flynn*, the poignant vignette inspired by her father, the Hollywood actor David Bruce. Barbara Cook has made this song her own: McBroom stole it back. Where most cabaret singers veer towards the conversational, she favours a more theatrical stance, abruptly leaping into the upper register to add emphasis.

Earlier, she had signalled another telling change of gear when she dipped into her high school past to treat Carole King's *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* as a glowing ballad stripped of artifice. Silberman, who has just guided classical pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet through an album of Ellington melodies, enjoyed his solo moment in the spotlight with an uptown treatment of *Don't Get Around Much Any More*. Very debonair, very Dukish.

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What's she got to smile about?

Rather more, it seems, than her character in the forthcoming comedy *Notting Hill*, or so Julia Roberts tells Matt Wolf

In the new romantic comedy *Notting Hill*, Julia Roberts plays a hugely successful film star, an Oscar-winning actress whose shining smile is worth \$15 million a movie. In real life, Roberts, 31, has yet to win an Academy Award (although she has been nominated twice, for supporting actress for *Steel Dawn* in 1989 and the following year for her career-making role as the hooker in *Pretty Woman*). At the same time, her value has gone up to a reported \$17 million a picture for her forthcoming *Runaway Bride*, which reteams Roberts with her *Pretty Woman* co-star, Richard Gere, and its director, Garry Marshall.

Nonetheless, it is tempting to regard Anna Scott, her latest screen heroine, as some variation on Roberts herself. So it comes as a surprise not just to find that Roberts in the flesh comes across as considerably more articulate and self-possessed (and even more beautiful) than Anna, but also to hear the actress distance herself from her character: whatever *Notting Hill* may or may not be, its star says it is not to be taken as a convenient essay on art imitating the worries of life.

"Just because you share an occupation with someone doesn't mean you're the same person," says Roberts, still energetic at the end of a day of interviews in the city where she spent several months filming *Notting Hill* last spring. The screenwriter Richard Curtis, Roberts says, "wrote a very specific type of actress in a very specific situation who has very precise ideas and values: I had to just reconcile the differences between us and not to judge her choices, because I didn't always agree with them."

Some actresses might balk at speaking lines in which their character envisages a future when both looks and popularity have faded. ("I'll become a sad middle-aged woman who looks a bit like someone who was famous for a while," Anna tells the English dinner table cronies of her newfound paramour Hugh Grant.)

"I don't have those concerns at all," says Roberts. "But, again, we are different people. Anna is still unsure of her own worth, whether as an actor or as a person. What is written about her concerns her a lot

more than it would concern me: she's a lot more fragile."

It may be, too, that after 13 years in the profession — most of them near the top of it — Roberts understands the workings of an industry that is increasingly fixated on youth and on, well, locating the next Julia Roberts. "I just know who I am and what I want and why I want it," she says. "As you become an adult, you gather information and life experiences which help to form the person you are and what you aspire to be."

Of Anna's frets, Roberts continues, "I don't have those concerns and I never have, although that's not to say that one day I may not

ered by my life and the choices that I make and part of the choice is what I do, and I find it freeing, not trapping."

The public, though, clearly prefers Roberts happy, flashing that now-celebrated grin that her *Stepmom* co-star, Susan Sarandon, has compared to "the sun coming out". But Roberts insists that she be allowed to pursue darker screenpaths and involves her involvement in the unsuccessful *Mary Reilly* to make her point. With that film, Roberts recalls, "people were saying, 'Why is she so down?' But what on earth does Mary Reilly have to smile about: getting up at 4am and spit-shining shoes? Should I be singing a little song?"

In any case, the Roberts smile "is not a skill, it's a gift. If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents. If people are going to support me, or pretend to support me, my belief is that they must support my desire to be a good actor, and in order to be a good actor it is my obligation to my desire to try different things. If I did the same thing all the time, how quickly would people get bored? They would be like, 'She's smiling again; oh God, that smile.'"

'I feel liberated and inspired by my life'

wake up and feel some of the insecurity that she expresses." And not to forget, as Roberts points out, that the scene is constructed as a contest to see which dinner guest can be most self-deprecating.

Roberts acknowledges her own career ascent that long ago found her surpassing older brother Eric in the renown sweepstakes and has now positioned her as one of only a handful of actresses within striking distance of the \$20 million-a-movie (or more) earned by the likes of Nicolas Cage, John Travolta and Mel Gibson. (A third sibling is a stage actress based, like Roberts, in Manhattan.)

Has fame been a trap, as *Notting Hill* suggests it has for its main character? That notion, she says, "seems so powerful. I think there is an essence of truth to it but I don't feel trapped and I don't feel like anybody has the power but me, and that's not said as a challenge. I feel liberated and inspired and empow-

are next month Roberts gets serious again, playing the title role of a secretary who becomes embroiled in the biggest civil action suit ever in Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich*, a Universal film based on a true story. "The reason I do a movie is the same as it was ten years ago," she says. "I like it or I don't, period. I respond on some level which is all my own regardless of what seems to be public demand."

And what about the real question posed by *Notting Hill*: could a film star ever fall for a mere mortal, as Anna does for the travel bookshop owner, played by Grant? "Look, as a working actor one is far more likely to meet and spend one's greatest amount of time with other actors. But separate and apart from that, I don't believe we are what we do. I'm not actor-Julia; I'm Julia. If you are with the right person and you have that amazing well of communication and support, then anything is understandable."

● *Notting Hill* opens in London on May 21 and nationwide on May 28



"The smile is not a skill, it's a gift," Julia Roberts says. "If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents"

Possessed by low-tech chills

THE EXORCIST

Warner, 18, 1993
I THINK the country's moral fabric can survive the rental release of this horror show, long banned on video. It's the tale, if you need reminding, of the battle for the soul of a possessed young girl (Linda Blair). A modern remake would go to town depicting the child's violence; director William Friedkin prefers bursts and snatches. And just look at the low-tech bile flying from the girl's mouth: it looks about as harmless as baby food. Blair, 14 at the time, writhes and scowls nicely, but the face that haunts is Jason Miller's, as the Jesuit priest with a faltering faith.

I WANT YOU

PolyGram, 18, 1998
IN A depressed seaside town Rachel Weisz's hairdresser suffers the loving gazes of a silent 14-year-old refugee and the un-

wanted attentions of her former boyfriend, now on parole after a murder conviction (Alessandro Nivola). This latest film from hot British director Michael Winterbottom, inspired by the song by Elvis Costello, is his most European yet in style, dazzlingly shot on Hastings locations, with surreal atmosphere galore. Available to rent.

LES MISÉRABLES

Entertainment, 12, 1998
VICTOR HUGO's huge novel turns up here in straight dramatic form, inevitably much abbreviated, directed by Bill August. No great artistic heights are scaled, but at least the story takes less time to watch than to read. Liam Neeson is disappointing as the former prisoner Valjean trying to shake off his past; Claire

Danes looks out of place as the girl raised as his own child; Uma Thurman suffers sweetly as the ill-fated Fantine; and Geoffrey Rush impresses as police inspector Javert, who won't let bygones be bygones. A rental release.

SILENT SHAKESPEARE

BFI, E
HISTORIANS and Bard fan- ciers, rejoice. Here is a wonder- ful tape that dips into the National Film and Television Archive for seven silent stabs at filming Shakespeare, three from Britain, two apiece from America and Italy. Primitive? Of course. But you still gaze in awe at these fragments, featuring Herbert Beerbohm Tree as King John (filmed in 1899), an energetic Richard III from Frank Benson (shot on Strat- ford's stage in 1911), and the

Italian Ermate Novelli, most impressive as King Lear. Fine prints, considering the material's age; sensitive musical accompaniment.

■ **STILL CRAZY**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1998
MILDLY amusing British comedy about the attempted comeback of Strange Fruit, a long-disbanded 1970s British rock band. Bill Nighy is the ego-inflated lead singer, Jimmy Nail strums a mean guitar, Stephen Rea jerks out chords on the keyboard, Timothy Spall bashes the drums, and Billy Connolly drives the bus. They are good enough company, and director Brian Gibson knows a thing or two about presenting music in films. If only everyone were not so tethered to the script's compendium of clichés. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

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WAR, plague and a schismatic papal court: this is the world of the 14th-century composer Guillaume de Machaut as presented by the Clerks' Group and Edward Wickham on this enticing disc, the first of a series of three to feature a particular medieval manuscript, and other music by one composer from that manuscript. So Machaut's motets are in- set here within a framework of anonymous Mass music associated with Avignon from the Ivrea Codex, the prime source for ars nova music. Much of it is recorded here for the first time: the Clerks' Group is already well-known for championing neglected Renaissance repertoire, and its cunning programming enriches its fresh performances, recorded in an airy church acoustic.

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The performers are alert to both the play and the passion within this music — as, for instance, a sensuous and intimate motet comes up against an exuberantly expanded Sanctus, or as a mischievously archaic ditty faces the public splendour of a post-Mass exhortation.

HILARY FINCH

ORCHESTRAL

■ **RUDERS**
Symphony No 2; Piano Concerto
Hind/Danish National RSO/Schönwandt/Sternz
Da Capo 9 224125 *** £14.99
THE Danish composer Paul Ruders sprang to fame here in 1996, when his witty *Concerto in Pieces* was given at the Last Night of the Proms. The recent Second Symphony, which comes to London tomorrow (played by the Brunel Ensemble at St John's Smith Square), presents a very different face of Ruders — though not necessarily a more typical one.

Cast in a single movement lasting 28 minutes, it is hardly comfortable listening, but in Michael Schönwandt's reading makes a powerful statement about our troubled

times. Halfway through, urgent trumpet tattoos obtrude, followed by a long, disjointed horn theme. A background texture of ever-increasing complexity offers little respite, and insistent drums gradually make their presence felt. This is but a portent of the final relentless onslaught, underpinned by savage percussion. The Piano Concerto (soloist: Rolf Hind) is less oppressive, though textures are sparse in the extreme. Ruders's control of materials is masterly, however, and there is much to enjoy as well as admire in Markus Stenz's account.

BARRY MILLINGTON

OPERA

■ **DONIZETTI**
Mary Stuart
Ploverright/Baker/Rendall/Opie/Tomlinson/ENO Orch/Mackerras
Chandos CHAN 3017(2) (2 CDs) *** £19.99
CHANDOS, zealous in the cause of opera in English, has acquired some of the recordings made during live performances at the Coliseum in the early 1980s. Few evenings were more glorious than Donizetti's *Mary Stuart*. Here

are Janet Baker and Rosalind Ploverright firing on all cylinders as the rival queens of Scotland and England.

Donizetti upset convention by making the soprano the villainess while assigning the soulful victim to the mezzo. Ploverright is full of fire as Elizabeth, breathing vengeance on all who flout her will. The dark tones in her voice as well as the chilling strength of the upper register show how right she was for the part. This may be Donizetti, but the role demands the qualities of a Verdi dramatic soprano.

Baker does not indulge in too much self-pity as Mary, stoic in the final act after giving as good as she gets at the famous, if fictitious, meeting between the two monarchs outside Chatsworth. It is a female-dominated work, but David Rendall and John Tomlinson seize their opportunities as rival courtiers. Charles Mackerras is the superb conductor: would that he had given us more Donizetti while at the Coliseum.

JOHN HIGGINS

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DANCE

Place in the limelight



John Ashford at The Place: "I don't think it's made a difference, but I've had a good time"

Godfather of modern dance

The Place, a converted rifle and drill hall in Central London, has long been one of Britain's most important dance and choreographic centres. It was here, in 1969, that the arts philanthropist and Martha Graham devotee Robin Howard found a permanent home for his Contemporary Dance Trust. Howard's initiatives remain the energy source for most of British modern dance.

Nearly 20 years later, John Ashford received Howard's seal of approval when he was hired as director of The Place's intimate, 300-seat theatre. Today it is primarily thanks to Ashford that, as a performance venue, The Place has become a mecca for fans of both home-grown and global dance. A singularly savvy programmer, this dapper 54-year-old has carved out a niche for himself as the UK's godfather of new contemporary moves.

Ashford has instituted a handful of ambitious, annual themed seasons including *Re-Orient* (contemporary dance from the Asian Pacific, together with work by Asian-British artists), *Spring Loaded* (a three-month celebration of the diversity of British dance) and *Resolution* (a platform for shorter works by emerging artists from the UK and abroad, lasting seven weeks).

"The theatre's first job is to offer a platform to British work," Ashford maintains. "Yet when I arrived, I felt that as dance has an international currency there should be an international aspect to the programme. I had to find devices to invite that work. *The Turning World* was the vehicle."

The name is lifted from T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*: "At the still point of the turning world... there the dance is." Conceived in 1990, this annual season of international dance and dance-theatre was destined from the start to terminate in 1999. "It was always billed as a season 'dancing to the edge of a millennium'," Ashford says, "and then we'd stop and think."

A decade on, it's easy to map out just how far *The Turning World* has travelled. Think of it as a kind of multicultural passport, transporting London audiences to a panorama of new kinetic landscapes. Although performances are centred on The Place, additional and significant sites have been provided by the South Bank

The world is about to stop turning for John Ashford of The Place. Donald Hutera finds out why

Centre, Sadler's Wells and, this year, the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Working with programmers from those venues, Ashford has been instrumental in importing work by nearly a hundred artists from almost two dozen countries, including Japan, Tunisia and, this year, Brazil, which will send the Deborah Colker company, and Australia, which is

"It was my decision to end it. Ten years. That's all"

represented by Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre.

A majority of artists, including a sizeable number of repeat visitors, have hailed from Europe: Belgium's Wim Vandekeybus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Spain's Vicente Saez and, from Germany, Rudi Horta.

Ashford casts the Euro connection in a political light. "We've gone to the north and gotten Scandinavian work, south for Spanish and Portuguese work, and east to Slovenia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The geographical spread is very important to me. The more people there are who are knowledgeable about what happens in other European countries — whether through dance or by another means — the more we are likely to come to terms with Europe's history this century, and get on with playing our

proper part in it in the next."

Neatly, the conclusion of *The Turning World* coincides with a major refurbishment of The Place. The National Lottery, through the Arts Council of England, has awarded the complex just over £5 million for a revamp that will commence in June and be completed by late spring of 2001. The King's Cross Partnership has also given £750,000 towards the 25 per cent matching funding the project requires, leaving The Place to raise an additional £900,000. All this will translate into easier and more welcoming access, a new café and proper bar, new toilets, lifts and dressing rooms, and a block of state-of-the-art studios. The building work is unlikely directly to affect dance programming until next June, when the theatre space itself will undergo its facelift.

Ashford started out wanting to be a theatre director, and in the late Sixties worked with the likes of Caryl Churchill and David Hare. He was also founding theatre editor of *Time Out* magazine. But his interest grew in dance. "So I took two years off to research dance here and throughout the world, just using contacts I'd made in theatre. I didn't read about it, or study it. I just looked at it."

The passion Ashford developed for recognising and nurturing new talent is fuelled by The Place's several choreographic residency programmes and seasons like *The Turning World*, but Ashford's dedication reaches beyond that. "Some stuff you just have to be committed to through thick and thin," he explains. "There are one or two artists, like Slovenia's Izak Kovac, whose work we've supported all the way for reasons which are not only to do with the quality of that work."

He professes to have no regrets about *The Turning World's* imminent demise. "It was my decision. Ten years. That's all. During that decade much more international work has been presented in London. Perhaps when others saw that we could successfully attract audiences for work that was absolutely unknown, they felt more confident about taking the same kind of risks."

He pauses. "No, that's not true. I don't think it's made that much difference. But I've had a very good time."

● *The Turning World* runs from May 4 to June 12 (0171-357 0031)

حكاية من الراحل

ARTS

Bad news, badly done

BROADCASTING: Peter Barnard on the day the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the violent death of one of its own

I met Jill Dando only twice and interviewed her only once, by telephone, for *The Times*. The interview was for a piece about local radio and I wanted to speak to someone of her stature who had started out in the make-the-news, read-the-news milieu that local radio was in her day and, to a large extent, remains now.

Dando was in some far-flung location, filming for BBC1's *Holiday* programme, when she got the message that I would like to speak to her. An arrangement was made that she would telephone me at 3pm one day. The call came no more than three minutes after that time. She began with a profuse apology for being "late".

Much has been said and written in the past few days about Dando's humility and lack of affectation and I think that my experience of her confirms both. She was also a person with a sense of proportion, so one must wonder what on earth she would have made of the coverage of her murder on the day that it happened.

Radio 5 Live was essential listening on Monday afternoon, but there were moments — too many moments — when some listeners must have echoed the feelings of a letter in *The*

Times yesterday from a reader who said that the "effusiveness of the BBC's coverage of the event was out of all proportion...". Yes, I am afraid it was.

Ian Payne's afternoon show on 5 Live bore the brunt. Let it be said right away that Payne and his producer were in an extremely difficult position, given that the story of the day concerned someone virtually every BBC broadcaster knew. It was understandable that such people would have their emotions on show.

There is, however, a requirement to respond to tough situations with tough decisions. Restraint is everything, hype must be ruthlessly expunged, exaggeration has no place. A story such as Dando's murder tells itself and should be allowed to do so. That did not happen on Monday, when we were treated to the worst excesses of the touchy-feely era.

The result was coverage that became embarrassing, save for the moment when Nick Ross, Dando's co-presenter on *Crimewatch UK* and an outstand-

ing broadcaster of consummate moderation, came on the line. The exchange began along these lines. Payne: "This is the worst day ever, isn't it?" Ross: "I wouldn't quite go that far..." I should think not.

On every BBC news bulletin that I heard or saw, Dando was referred to throughout as "Jill". This was unprecedented. It was also proof that the BBC had allowed its own relationship with Dando to corrupt between it and the story. The use of the first name on its own amounts to editorialising, for it puts the subject of the story in a category separate from all others. This was news for grown-ups being treated as if it were an item on the children's programme *Newsround*.

In the evening BBC1 ran a half-hour tribute to Dando, fronted by Desmond Lynam. It was dreadful, a throw-together collage transmitted in haste to be repented at leisure. Just when we needed Dando the three-dimensional person, we got more of the two-dimensional presenter we already knew. It

sold her short and it was unworthy of the BBC, which hardly ever puts out tribute programmes so soon after a death. Why did it happen this time?

My mind went back to the sudden, though natural, death of Brian Redhead a few years ago. An important story, but one that was seriously overcooked on the *Today* programme, which at times that morning sounded like an in-house network rather than a national broadcaster. The same impression was conveyed on Monday. It was, quite simply, too much.

I liked Dando, as a presenter and as a person. The enthusiasm with which she recalled, during that conversation with me, her training at Radio Devon demonstrated that there was a household name who was proud of her roots rather than (like some) trying to bury them beneath the luxuriant foliage of fame.

Dando was a good journalist and a warm presenter. Her murder was and remains both a tragedy and a major news story. But she was hardly a towering presence on the broadcasting landscape and she would have been the last person to claim any such status. Unfortunately Dando's sense of proportion was absent from the coverage of her own death by her own employers.

Flawed airing of first draft

The second operatic offering in the City of London Sinfonia's "Greek Myths" tribute to Richard Strauss came in the form of the first version of *Ariadne*. It's not such a rarity as his wrong-headed but riveting reworking of *Idomeneo*: this marriage of Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and the *Ariadne* chamber opera was fully and memorably staged at the Edinburgh Festival two years ago. In fact it is a perfectly valid alternative: sharper, more alienating, but near-impracticable in terms of personnel and budget.

Tuesday's version was semi-staged, with the halfhearted, hangdog routines for the *commedia* troupe making one wish it had been in purely concert form. The Molière was replaced with a genial narrator which was written and delivered by Nigel Douglas in splendid 18th-century costume.

He had some good jokes about new and old money.

OPERA



much appreciated by an audience in which, as someone unkindly remarked, the braying classes were well represented. There was nothing on the subject of what the opera might be about — a pity — and neither the blind nor the deaf could have mistaken this elegant, soigné M Jourdain for a social climber.

One good reason for performing *Ariadne* is Strauss's witty incidental music for the play, but unfortunately the CLS was having an off-night — for too many nights — and Richard Hickox gave little indication of why he wanted to conduct this piece: fast, unyielding tempos, a depressing, indeed incomprehensible absence of nuance, lack of concern for internal or external balance in this most fastidiously scored music. Things went a little better bashing through the purple passages in the opera, but not much.

So, thank heavens for the singers, led by Christine Brewer's magnificent *Ariadne*, sumptuous of tone, as delicate of phrase as the conductor allowed, heroic in delivery. She's a perfectly lovely singer. The only criticism of Cynthia Sieden's *Zerbibetta* is that she made it sound far too easy. It is, of course, much harder in this version, the final section of her aria a tone higher with forests of top Es and a top F sharp. Sieden flung it all off with insouciant ease in a truly virtuoso performance. Adrian Thompson was a robust, verbally incisive *Bacchus*, and Roderick Williams made his mark in *Harlekin's* aria.

Nigel Douglas had the last word: "I'm afraid I slept through most of that." I'm afraid that for much of the time I rather envied him.

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	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99
	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %
BONUS GOLD								
£100,000+	5.05	5.05	4.85	4.85	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.55	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.20	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.00	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.40	3.40	3.30	3.30	-	-	-	-
Monthly Income Plan								
£100,000+	4.95	4.94	4.85	4.75	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.46	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.22	4.22	4.12	4.12	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.02	4.02	3.93	3.93	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	-	-	-	-
SOLID GOLD								
£25,000+	3.20	3.20	2.95	2.95	3.15	2.90	2.90	2.32
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.75	2.75	2.70	2.85	2.85	2.28
£5,000+	2.50	2.50	2.55	2.55	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.08
£2,500+	2.45	2.45	2.20	2.20	2.45	2.20	2.20	1.76
Monthly Income Plan								
£25,000+	3.15	3.15	2.91	2.91	3.11	2.90	2.90	2.29
£10,000+	2.96	2.96	2.72	2.72	2.96	2.81	2.81	2.25
£5,000+	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.81	2.65	2.65	2.06
£2,500+	2.42	2.42	2.18	2.18	2.42	2.28	2.28	1.74
LIBOR GOLD								
£100,000+	2.05	2.05	1.95	1.95	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.52
£50,000+	1.95	1.95	1.85	1.85	1.90	1.80	1.80	1.44
£25,000+	1.85	1.85	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.65	1.65	1.32
£10,000+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
Halifax Savings Certificate Accounts								
£10,000+	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.60	3.44	3.40	2.72
£5,000+	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.75	3.20	3.05	3.00	2.40
£2,500+	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40	2.95	2.78	2.75	2.20
£1,000+	2.90	2.90	2.70	2.70	2.65	2.47	2.45	1.96
£500+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80
Halifax TESSA								
£10,000+	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	-	-	-	-
Halifax TESSA 2								
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.04
£5,000+	2.30	2.30	2.05	2.05	2.30	2.05	2.05	1.64
Monthly Income Plan								
£10,000+	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.02
£5,000+	2.28	2.28	2.03	2.03	2.28	2.03	2.03	1.62
Halifax TESSA 3								
£10,000+	-	-	3.20	3.20	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.40
£5,000+	-	-	2.65	2.65	2.45	2.45	2.45	1.96
£2,500+	-	-	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.68

Bonus Accounts

Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

ACCOUNT	Non-resident rates ¹				Non-personal rates ²			
	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99
	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %
BONUS GOLD								
£100,000+	4.35	4.35	4.10	4.10	5.10	4.10	3.85	4.85
£50,000+	4.00	4.00	3.85	3.85	4.85	3.70	4.70	2.96
£25,000+	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	4.50	3.35	4.35	2.68
£10,000+	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40	4.40	3.25	4.25	2.60
Monthly Income Plan								
£100,000+	4.25	4.27	4.00	4.02	-	4.00	3.78	-
£50,000+	4.00	3.93	3.85	3.78	-	3.85	3.64	-
£25,000+	3.70	3.64	3.55	3.45	-	3.55	3.30	-
£10,000+	3.60	3.54	3.40	3.35	-	3.40	3.20	-
Monthly Income Plan								
£100,000+	2.76	2.75	2.56	2.55	5.09	-	-	-
CLOSED ISSUES								
£10,000+	5.30	5.30	5.05	5.05	5.65	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.20	5.20	5.45	5.45	5.57	-	-	-
£2,500+	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	5.82	-	-	-

POINTS TO NOTE. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Interest will be paid net after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings customers who appear in our records as being under 21. If your savings account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21. The non-resident interest rates are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. "Bonus Gold, Solid Gold and Liquid Gold" non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities and companies) are no longer available to new customers. "Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA 2, Bonus Gold and Monthly Income Plan, are available from any Halifax branch.

Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999



BOOKS

The literary bunfight of the century

Malcolm Bradbury finds he's off the shelf of this modern library — but that he's in very good company

It's a none-so-curious fact that whereas the great works of fiction from the first half of this century have acquired a firm place in the literary histories, been widely studied and placed in the chronicle of modern literature, those of the second half have not been set in much shape or order at all.

This is partly because they are considered as contemporary. Yet 50 years, in literary terms, is a long time. It's also partly because, where the literary endeavours of the first half-century have a certain aesthetic clarity, those of the second look much more fragmentary. All canons are in perpetual dispute. Still, if we consider who were the major writers of English-language fiction to the great cultural break of the Second World War, then a fairly clear front rank can be drawn up: say James, Conrad, Lawrence, Stein, Woolf, Joyce, Ford, Faulkner, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Waugh. Their great project would be the transformation of Victorian fiction, with its "loose baggy monsters", into a fiction of modernism and modernity. We are talking, in short, about an age.

The postwar period has not yet taken shape as an "age". It has seen a new set of revolutions in modern English-language fiction, not least be-

THE MODERN LIBRARY
Ed. Carmen Callil
and Colm Tóibín
Picador, £12.99
ISBN 0 330 34182 0



cause of the great irruption of American and other literatures. It contains its fair share of major talents. Yet the reputations are still disputed and its aesthetic developments don't look clear. Ten years back the term "Post-Modernism" served to suggest an artistic direction, taking us from the fiction of Beckett and Nabokov to that of Pynchon and Barth. But it has dissolved into a debate over vaguer matters: gender revision, post-colonialism, a transformation less of art forms than of subject matters and cultural origins.

That makes shaping a canon more difficult. We do it, of course; and at no time more than when a century and mil-

lennium is turning. The Callil-Tóibín *Modern Library* is one way of going about this. A user-friendly book, it partly acts as a listing of listings — giving us, for instance, accounts of past winners of the many prizes that nowadays go towards making literary reputations (the Booker, the Whitbread, the CNA, the Commonwealth, etc.) much as publication in avant garde magazines once aided the reputation of the great Modernists.

Listings (prizes, guides, culture supplements and so on) are now the way most artistic information is transacted. As with contemporary literary criticism itself, they are more concerned with pluralism and cultural eclecticism than standards of judgment. This book is not concerned with critical solemnities; in places it shows a dislike for academic styles in judgment. Enthusiasm, we're told, is its driving force; the books are chosen for readers "of every age and taste": "its purpose is to celebrate the writers we have loved best, and to proselytise on behalf of their novels: sources of entertainment and enjoyment as satisfying as any Hollywood movie, football match..."

The editors' listings are called passionate, idiosyncratic; they remind us they're neither English nor American

(Callil is Australian, Tóibín Irish). Thus they have good reason for taking an eclectic, cosmopolitan view of modern fiction. As they rightly say, some of the most important fictional writing now comes from anglophone writing elsewhere, from Australian and Canadian to Indian, African and Caribbean. They express justified impatience at the poor availability of many of these works, though the neglect has significantly if selectively diminished lately.

This provides the most refreshing side of the book, interesting entries you didn't expect to see: Bapsi Sidhwa, Kushwant Singh, Oscar Hijuelos, Scots, Irish (but not Welsh), Australasian, Canadian (but not South African) writing gets high rates of entry. So do genre writers: P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, Patricia Highsmith, John le Carré and Stephen King. So why not Ian Fleming?

I'm glad to see a number of books that matter to me: Wil-

liam Gaddis's *The Recognition*, William H. Gass's volume *In the Heart of the Country*, B. S. Johnson's novel-in-a-box *The Unfortunates*, Wilson Harris's *Heartland*. There are some works of real triviality and the one-page-per-book entries vary greatly in quality. Some are deft in judgment; others are no more than publishers' blurbs, and many titles prove "electrifying" or "engrossing".

As an absentee myself, I am naturally interested in the sig-

nificant absences. Tolkien is directly excluded (and some may indeed prefer Stephen King). But it seems odd to be without one of the finest novels published here in the period, John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Peter Ackroyd, John Berger, Lawrence Durrell, Vikram Seth and Angus Wilson fail to make it. So do Paul Auster, John Barth, Richard Brautigan, Robert Coover, John Hawkes, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gore Vidal and Richard Wright.

The book is provocative and interesting. Its best use is to start an argument about an era that, at least in calendar terms, is closing (though since it uses passionate liking as the criterion it's hard to argue over terms). As it turns out, it has been a major period for anglophone fiction, and the novel itself has survived most of the disasters said to be awaiting it. Now it finishes the century in good shape. This book's great use is that this is what it helps us to see.



ALAN ADLER

Serbia in the grip of a deadly myth

One of the more dispiriting aspects of our current moral adventure in the Balkans is the deliberate perversion of objective reality. The West is determined to see through these operations against the dictator Milosevic: yet Nato still ducks the issue of pre-settlement ground forces, the majority of Kosovans are being driven out, not massacred, and the presence of opposition leaders in Milosevic's Government suggests he is at worst an evil autocrat.

But these pale compared to the wilful unreality of the Serbs: the Kosovans are being driven out by the KLA and Nato; the pictures of refugees are faked; the Serbs are acting in self-defence. Most depressingly of all, even the most liberal Serbian voices seem to be without a word in defence of the simple humanity of the people victimised in their name. How can they be so obtuse?

Noel Malcolm has already dissected the Kosovo myth. Anzulovic's target is its overarching myth, "Heavenly Serbia" — the notion of the Serbs' preference for moral purity over military victory — and how it has led to genocide in the 1990s. Thomas provides a straightforward analysis of how Slobodan Milosevic came to, and maintained, power. Taken together, *Heavenly Serbia* and *Serbia under Milosevic* go a long way to explaining the apparent unreality of the voices of even moderate Serbs.

It is hard not to think that Serbia is stuck in some kind of cultural, historical and political adolescence. "Heavenly

DOMINICK DONALD
SERBIA UNDER MILOSEVIC
By Robert Thomas
C. Hurst & Co., £14.95
ISBN 1 850 65367 4

HEAVENLY SERBIA
By Branimir Anzulovic
C. Hurst & Co., £25
ISBN 1 850 65342 9

Serbia" is always right, particularly when outsiders indicate otherwise, and never more so than in cataclysmic defeat. Though the myth was useful in explaining Serbia's partly consensual Ottoman occupation, its application to 1990s Europe smacks of pathological self-indulgence. Thomas argues convincingly for Serbia's lack of political development. Political discourse has failed to move on from symbols to policies, and Milosevic has shanghaied the symbols. The largely urban "Happening of the Citizens" in the winter of 1996-97 seemed to show a growing political maturity. But so strong is the hold of the symbolic, and Milosevic's grip over the media and the rural population, that he could launch the crack-down in Kosovo in February 1998 simply to strengthen his position in Belgrade's post-election deadlock.

Is there anyone who can lead the country to maturity? Rarely can a people have been so ill-served by its elites. Its intellectuals were instrumental



Control in his sights: Milosevic exploits his grip on the media and the rural population

in supplanting nationalism with an unpleasant nationalist credo. Its literati churn out Nietzschean paens to violence (Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, is the author of a work called *Knife*), building on oral tradition and the 19th-century Montenegrin Prince-Bishop Njegos's hymn to ethnic cleansing, *The Mountain Wreath*. Its political opposition has yet to move beyond squabbles over whether Dayton is a betrayal of Greater

Serbia; of its leaders only Zoran Djindjic, president of the Democratic Party, emerges from the shenanigans of the 1990s with any credit. The difficulty is that the myths and symbols have a near-universal hold over Serbs, and Nato has acted at a time when the political discourse is too immature to resist their lure. Neither work is perfect; Anzulovic has a dire chapter on the implications of Western acceptance of the

myth which repeats old canards, while Thomas's book reads like a dry textbook-in-progress. Yet both are essential for anyone who wants to know why the Serbs don't see things our way, and to work out how to deal with them.

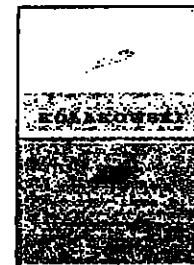
LINKS
www.bbc.org regularly updated site detailing human rights abuses in Kosovo
www.serbia-info.com the website of the Serbian Ministry of Information

Tolerance isn't as laid-back as all that

There can be few more eminent figures in the world of ideas than Leszek Kolakowski. Now in his 72nd year, Kolakowski has held distinguished positions in America, Britain and his native Poland; his writings and speeches continue to play their part in shaping Western culture. Philosopher, historian, theologian, political scientist and literary critic, he exemplifies a type of intellectual already rare on the Continent, and almost non-existent in the English-speaking world. His most important book — the three-volume *Main Currents of Marxism* — effectively put an end to the intellectual pretensions of Marx and his followers, while, in his imaginative studies of the religious worldview, Kolakowski has made an exemplary attempt to overturn the cynical materialism of modern philosophy.

Freedom, Fame, Lying and Betrayal is a collection of short and lucid essays. Abstract thoughts about freedom, God and human nature are interwoven with concrete observations about the trials of modern life and the author's humane and tolerant worldview is tested against the harsher human realities. There are no footnotes; the great philosophers are rarely mentioned, and modern scholarship is ignored. But the reader feels that he is in the presence of a deeply serious and learned thinker who has the rare gift of speaking simply about complex things. At their best the essays are little gems of applied philosophy; even when their light is dimmed by hesitation, they are both useful to the general reader and challenging to the academic philosopher.

ROGER SCRUTON
FREEDOM, FAME, LYING AND BETRAYAL
By Leszek Kolakowski
Penguin, £8.99
ISBN 0 14 028044 8



Kolakowski's experience of communism has left him with a deep revulsion towards that evil creed. But his philosophy is not defined by this revulsion; on the contrary, it is a search for some positive alternative. The result is a synthesis of Roman Catholic theology with a liberal-humanist morality. Whether this reconciliation of opposites is possible may be doubted; but Kolakowski is determined to make the attempt. It is, he implies, the best that we can hope for.

Catholics are often accused of intolerance. But as Kolakowski points out, tolerance is not merely compatible with strong beliefs; it actually requires them. To tolerate something you must also disapprove of it: otherwise what looks like tolerance is merely indifference. When gay activists accuse Catholics of "homophobia", they are trying to make disapproval into a crime. While pretending to attack intolerance, they are

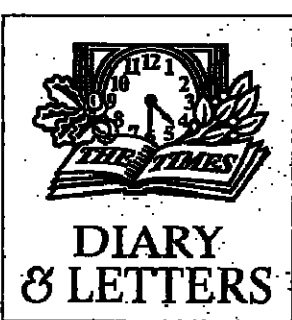
actually displaying it. Here is one point where the morality of liberal humanism has let us down. Kolakowski is surely right in this. In my experience the most intolerant people are liberals: people who can tolerate any belief whatsoever, provided it is not seriously held, and who therefore demonise everyone who really disagrees with them.

Kolakowski's essay on God goes straight to the heart of modern doubts and soothes them with lapidary words. God is "that place to which Reason, the Imagination and the Heart are persistently drawn". He is the goal of our thinking and desiring, and without Him we cannot realise our potential. That there is Good in the world counts, for Kolakowski, far more in favour of God's existence than Evil counts against it. And he implies that the chaos and violence of our times is a direct result of our loss of faith. He does not exculpate the Church for its experiments in violence; but he points to the virtue of an institution that can publicly confess to its faults.

Here and there Kolakowski misses an intellectual opportunity: in the essay on travel he sees this modern vice as a healthy expression of curiosity, rather than as what it is, a self-centred determination to be other; while in his account of violence he makes no mention of the concept of "structural violence" with which sociologists wage war on the institutions of social control. Nevertheless, the essays offer a sustained adventure of ideas, and the moral sense is constantly engaged by them.

■ **MAGNUS MILLS**, bus-driving Booker shortlistee, fears no comparison. The author of *The Restraint of Beasts* has a new book coming from Flamingo in September. *All Quiet on the Orient Express* publishers usually provide their reps with notes on "competition" (Helen Dunmore up against Sebastian Faulks, for instance) — so who is Mills up against? George Crabbe, Thomas Hardy and Franz Kafka, those wild 'n' crazy guys...

■ **PICK** a genius, any genius. Over £100,000 is to be handed out to unknown authors. The Arts Council of England is giving awards of £7,000 to 15 writers with "work in progress" —



and the judges had no idea who they were. Marina Warner, Michèle Roberts and Don Paterson read through hundreds of anonymous works and picked the best. The winners will be lifted from obscurity on May 27. Ian McEwan presents the cheques at London's Imagination Gallery.

■ **BERNARD CORNWELL** has always spread his talents, giving his books on Sharpe and the "Rebel" series to HarperCollins and his Arthurian trilogy to Penguin. Now he'll put all his books under the HarperCollins roof for a seven-figure deal, with the publication of *Stonewall* 2000 BC in time for Christmas.

■ **OVERHEARD** in a pub from a man recommending reading to two 18-year-olds: "Books give you a lovely balance between your own experience and the world's experience." Could anyone put it better?

■ books@the-times.co.uk

Poet going somewhere, despite himself

ONCE we asked too much of our poets: they had to be prophets and lawgivers at once. Then we asked too little: they had to be as much like us as possible, make poems that were indistinguishable from drab prose. Now, with our best poets, a balance has been struck, the lessons of both modes internalised. Michael Hofmann in *Approximately Nowhere* (Faber, £7.99; ISBN 0 571 9524 5) is still half in love with poetry as description and enumeration:

the velvet curtains slowly turning to dust on the woodwormed rail, my diminished establishment

of bin-liners and suitcase (our 1961 cardboard family "Revelation"), the Olympia Traveller I logged around Mexico and two pairs of boots

The trouble with this is that it tries to suggest that attention to detail is attentiveness to the world. It also, in a very English way, tries to suggest that cold description hides deep feeling, as in the opening poem, *Tea for my Father*, which ends:

He likes it very strong, with cream, in mugs, and sweetens it himself. He puts it on the window-sill in front

of his table, and lets it go cold. Later on, I come and throw it out.

Interestingly, that poem is dated 1979. Gert Hofmann died in 1993, and the first part of the book consists of poems in his memory. The coy self-consciousness of lines like "Later on, I come and throw it out" have gone. In their place is a new attentiveness, not to detail but to the immense complexity and confusion of life.

The new south east cemetery is approximately nowhere ten stops by underground then bus zigzagging through the suburbs

The lack of punctuation makes palpable the sense of how death always escapes us. The poet accepts that and builds it into his poem. *Epithet*, the masterpiece of the collection, is still happy to enumerate ("Sprays of pluperfect flowers at your head, the swanky brass tag at your feet"), but is open to people and situations as well.

A custodian (one of your characters, morbid and fussy and phlegmatic) took out the alarmingly long screws from the coffin, as though someone would try very hard to get out or — you would have said — in

This is as funny, rich and painful as a passage in Beckett. And that combination is to be found throughout the volume: in the fine *Kleist in Paris*, in the pangs of adultery and betrayal.

Michael Hofmann is one of our finest translators. He moves with ease between German, English and American cultures and idioms. Less extreme than his father, more at ease in the world, but with his father's compassion for the broken and defeated, he grows in stature with each succeeding book.

GABRIEL JOSIPOVICI

هكذا من الاصل

BOOKS

God wouldn't believe in Dawkins, either

Is science 'the truth' or merely a system of belief?

A history of its institutions begs the question

In Samuel Johnson's great dictionary the first definition of "science" is simply "knowledge": the history of how it has decayed into a paranoid and destructive system of specialised applications is the history which this volume attempts to trace. It charts the course by which what was once the "servant of nature", to employ Francis Bacon's phrase, became the usurper and maligner of nature.

It must be noted at once that contemporary science is not an all-encompassing reality. It is a system of beliefs competing with other systems. It is an enterprise in time and space, in other words, an activity which changes direction or shape and sometimes even goes into reverse. One of the strengths of this volume, in fact, is the extent to which it illuminates how science alters according to the country or culture in which it is practised.

Certain cities encourage certain types of scientific methodology;

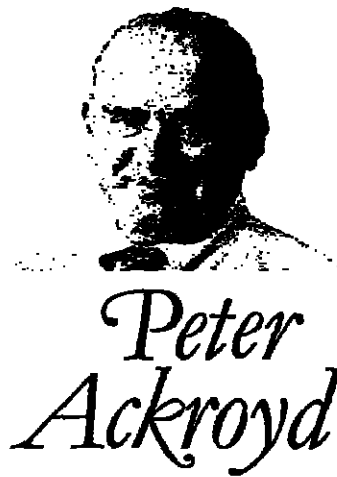
throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, London and Paris were engaged in internecine warfare for pre-eminence in experimental matters with London encouraging pragmatic applications. And the authors of this book suggest that the 19th-century invention of the "campus" and the "graduate school" in the United States created a suitably enclosed and hierarchical environment for research.

In fact science has for most of its existence depended crucially upon institutions, generally male-dominated, and thus has become an aspect of patriarchal society. The culture of learned societies was co-opted by the State and became that of "official institutions" which supported "the forces of rational enlightenment, progress and modernisation".

Measurement itself becomes co-opted as a State activity — "The State established measures of assets, animate and inanimate", according to the authors of this book.

"better to control them" — and thus the concept of precision was directly related to acquisitiveness and power. The authors once more suggest that "measurement signalled industry and improvement". The introduction of uniform clock time, with the use of mechanical clocks, regimented life in ways unknown to any previous generation.

There are other very interesting chapters in this almost encyclopaedic survey. The connection between science and Protestantism, for example, is firmly made. It is true that the founders of the Royal Society, including Sir Isaac Newton, were practising alchemists and astrologers — and it is also true that this aspect of early experimental science has remained obscured in most histories of the subject. But the history of science in the last decades of the 17th and the early decades of the 18th century is wholly implicated in the Protestant ethic.



Peter Ackroyd

One great intellectual historian has suggested that "Puritanism, and ascetic Protestantism generally... played no small part in arousing a sustained interest in science". The rejection of scholastic authority, the sustained examination of God and nature beyond the corrupting interpretation of priests, the faith in human perfectibility — all

blossomed in a consuming reverence for science and technology.

In similar fashion individual "cabinets of curiosities" became collections, which then turned into state-funded museums where the taxonomy of knowledge was displayed; the temples of the 19th century, "monumental and imposing", which evoked "connotations of dignity, antiquity and permanence", when in fact they were organised upon distorted and temporary misinterpretations of the world.

In this context it is interesting to note that in the 1870s one or two brave souls dared to question the truth and purpose of Darwinism — that, in the words of one opponent, was quackery designed "to refer all effects to the same cause" — before being silenced by the scientific establishment.

The social order and the scientific system have become so clearly implicated with each other that they cannot now be separated. There is no such thing as "pure" science, only that which has become the "servant" of the State rather than of nature.

There is a very interesting chapter here on the relationship between

science and slaughter. It poses the question, "Why should warriors have a professional interest in abstract knowledge?" to which the only possible answer is that abstract knowledge is an instrument of power and of oppression. Abstract knowledge has no perpetrators and no victims: it represents a supposedly impersonal force which can effortlessly master the world. The authors note how physicians conduct a "war" against disease while bomber pilots master the guidance of their missiles with "surgical precision". The principal medical officer in the United States is known as the "surgeon-general".

This is in certain respects not an easy book to read; the level of cliché is high. Writers thunder, sands shift, struggles are deadly and tomes are unwieldy. But if ever there was an occasion to divorce style from content, *Servants of Nature* represents it. It is a challenging, and necessary, book.

SERVANTS OF NATURE
By Lewis Pyenson &
Susan Sievert-Pyenson
HarperCollins, £24.99
ISBN 0 00 223852 X

Dying for an identity

RUSSELL CELYN JONES

TAKING LIVES

By Michael Pye
Phoenix House, £16.99
ISBN 1 861591 09 8

WHAT'S in a name? Big trouble when it's not your own. A young Dutchman witnesses the accidental death of a stranger in Florida and sees a perverse opportunity. He mutilates the face, breaks the teeth and swaps watches with the dead man. Martin Arkenhout is now Seth Goodman, for a while at least. As his bogus identity is about to be rumoured in New York, he kills someone to assume another identity and moves on. The places he goes, the jobs he performs are described in a twilight prose to contrast with the graphic details of the murders.

But everyone has secrets that only surface after death. For the impostor this can be very compromising. Arkenhout's third victim is Professor Christopher Hart, an art historian who had stolen some valuable paintings. *The Liber Principis*, from a London museum.

Archivist John Michael Costa just wants the pictures back, no further questions asked, and traces Arkenhout to Portugal. Simultaneously the Dutch police are closing in on Arkenhout after a chance sighting by his mother as he was travelling through Amsterdam on his way to Portugal. But that is all I should reveal of this engaging plot.

In a way, Costa is in the same business as Arkenhout, museums being the mausoleums of misplaced identity. And from the moment Costa is revealed as the narrator his own identity problems become as central to the story as Arkenhout's. The prose, moreover, is striking. Take this one description of a fire: "A bush burst out in neon orange, then the red and orange licked their way to the edge of the road and the tall, dry grass stems went off like sparklers. The brambles ran like fuses into a hedge. The air shook so you could hear it, like a ship when the engines start turning."

Pye's concerns continue to broaden out to include Portugal's recent political history and classical archaeology. So many themes and changes in character and point of view require sustained concentration from the reader, as does Costa's slightly awkward explanations as to how he acquired information about Arkenhout while dealing with him as Hart.

But these are minor criticisms. Precise and absorbing, *Taking Lives* is also surprisingly moving for a thriller.

The moral is: there are no morals

Peter Preston wishes Christopher Hitchens would forget about Bill and Sid and move on to other things

Christopher Hitchens is that cherishing rarity, a man of the Left who writes with all the barbed eloquence the Right has sought to make its own. His *Vanity Fair* essays often turn polemic into an art form. He has the historic swagger of the old English pamphleteers. But, alas, this is a rather sad little book.

Its ostensible purpose is to reveal William Jefferson Clinton as a compulsive fornicator, liar, bully, employer of scumbags, friend of mobsters and shameless political compromiser. Yes, quite: but what's new? Surely there's no market left for the standard Rees-Mogg thesis with added adjectives? What's new is the last five pages (out of 112) and they have almost nothing to do with Clinton and everything to do with the author's awful predicament.

A few weeks ago some of Washington's grandest political commentators put on a cabaret where they sang barbed songs about the great and not-so-good. Thus the President, sitting there in the audience, smiling, was "Caught by the DNA" (to a Springsteen beat). Another song featured one "Christopher Snitchens".

The story behind the sneer is simple enough. Hitchens went to lunch with his "old friend" turned White House aide, Sidney Blumenthal. Sid told Chris that Monica was a compulsive "stalker" who the gallant Bill had fended off — and Sid knew because Bill had told him personally. Much later, Sid was hauled before the Senate and asked whether the lies about stalking were White House ones. Oh no, he said. Oh yes they were, said his old "friend" Chris to the House Judiciary Committee, dishing the lunch table chat. Clinton walked away unscathed. Blumenthal stayed stuck in a perjury mire.

Here's the kind of judgment call that journalists have to make from time to time, an ethical dilemma which can punch you on the nose if you get it wrong. Was Chris wrong

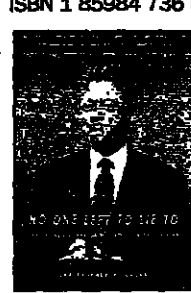
to snitch on Sid? Perhaps. The source was a chum talking off the record. Any practical judgment at the time of the snitch was that it would make no difference: Clinton, lies or no lies, was already certain of acquittal. But these personal/professional conundrums are the devil to deal with and you can make out a good case for testifying truly when called.

The trouble is that Christopher Hitchens doesn't make that case. He makes a six-egg omelette of a defence in which he is "taken hostage" by Blumenthal's information and resolves at the last "that the pact a journalist makes is, finally, with the public". He lectures us on the "great, annihilating" tactics of Stalinism. He finds, equally, that "Clintonism poisons everything it touches". And here is what is so sad about this slim volume. It is a work of absurdly conflated self-justification. It tells you rather too much about the bleeding ego of the author — and thus not much of interest about its supposed subject.

Bill Clinton, for Hitchens's purposes, has to be portrayed as one of history's great monsters. Monica has to be a "defenceless and vulnerable young woman". The supporting cast, from Vernon Jordan to Colin Powell, has to be uniformly repulsive. The poor have to be thrown into the gutter while the rich fawn on

the destroyer of the New Deal. This is a Ben Jonson version of Beltway life designed to shed a kindlier light on our hero, who stood out against corrosive tyranny — and paid for his bravery by being laughed at in Washington supper clubs.

NO ONE LEFT TO LIE TO
By Christopher Hitchens
Verso, £12
ISBN 1 85984 736 6



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A rural idyll not mired in sentiment

JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

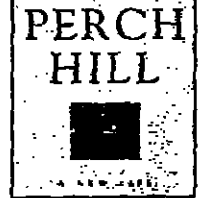
PERCH HILL

By Adam Nicolson

Robinson

£14.99

ISBN 1 84119 054 3



Nicolson sees the countryside's romance without romanticising it. Photo from Images

Adam Nicolson is both a refugee from the city and a columnist. It would be easy, therefore, to rush to judgment about this account of urban exile on a farm in the Sussex Weald. Mercifully, though, this book is not another exercise in metropolitan archness and angst. On the contrary, it is a delight: beautifully written, acutely observed and laced with self-mockery.

After the failure of his first marriage, Nicolson was on his uppers, psychologically as well as financially — a collapse of self-esteem which he recounts with no trace of false sentiment. His epiphany came after a late night trudge through London which was aborted when a gang of teenagers threw bleach in his eyes and mugged him. Supported by the saint-like Sarah, the woman for whom he had left his wife, he began his search for a Postmodern Arcadia and ended up falling for Perch Hill Farm: a dreary house, some asbestos buildings and 90 acres of unpromising farmland on the edge of the Sussex Weald.

So far, so predictable. What makes this particular love affair with rural England unusual is Nicolson's ability to interweave mud-spattered anecdote with poetic observation. So he rages against a neighbour who pours tarmac on an

ancient cart-track to protect a voluptuous BMW, but he is touched by a meeting of farmers trying to save a local market and who inhabit "fences in which the wind had broken the veins".

He also has a fine sense of the absurd. Eager for free-range eggs, he buys the birds and builds a palace of a hen-coop, but its inhabitants soon fall from grace as the author notices that the eye of a chicken is "about as warm and responsive as a 100-watt bulb". And when his ewes break through a fence, they not only contrive to vandalise a car but

he has to fork out £3,000 in damages. At his best, Nicolson is a chronicler in the class of Richard Jefferies or John Stewart Collis. Like them, he describes the land and the people who work on it with precision and insight. And, like them, he wears his learning lightly. As an environmentalist who knows that "an oak tree 60 foot high may drink 15,000 gallons of water a day", he instinctively nurtures the concept of "sustainability" but approaches its meaning without once using the term or belabouring the point. Nor, incidentally, does

he pontificate about the rape to which the landscape of southern England has been subjected, though it clearly dismays him. Nicolson is not ashamed to wear his heart on his sleeve. One hot afternoon, when butterflies "cruised and flickered across a field and a wood was 'needled with birdsong', he lay in the grass and buried his nose in "the sun-warmed turf, breathed it in, smelled how good it was", knowing that he was right to have made the move. In moments of such bliss, he appears to inhabit a world where the human spirit

and nature are at one and where he is able to discover "the underside, those deeper connections" to which he is drawn again and again.

As he and Sarah become ever more rooted in their arched refuge, Nicolson reflects with characteristic self-deprecation that "the whole experience was a blunder into truth". It is a tale well told and a truth worth the telling.

LINKS
www.greenbookonline.com/cprn/: the official website of the Committee for the Protection of Rural England



On the crest of a wave

DANCING NAKED IN THE MIND FIELD
By Kary Mullis
Bloomsbury, £12.99
ISBN 0 7475 4376 3

THE biochemist Kary Mullis won the 1993 Nobel Prize for PCR (polymerase chain-reaction) which gave new meaning to DNA. Thereafter known as the Surfer Scientist, he has been high on a wave ever since. Now he gives us his Joe Schmo attitude on life, love, alien encounters and the ruthless careerism of the scientific establishment. His view is that the bastards are out to get ya. For all the California Weird, Kary knows a thing or two.

Love lines

ARTHUR RIMBAUD
By Benjamin Ivry
Outlines, £6.99
ISBN 1 899791 71 X

WE are mostly adjusted now to the significance of a poet's sexuality in any assessment of his work, though there is an argument against categorisation of gays in a literary ghetto. Ivry's short biography is dedicated to Rimbaud as an "exceptional being dedicated somatically and psychically to homosexuality" and deals fully with Rimbaud's violent, passionate affair with Verlaine. The muse of lyric poetry doesn't discriminate against poets — only critics and readers do that. Ivry is on the side of Erato.

No nonsense

MIND, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY
By John Searle
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99
ISBN 0 297 64300 2

SEARLE's subtitle, "Philosophy in the Real World", is a dunking clue to his belief in external realism and Enlightenment idealism. His admits that his distaste for Post-Modernism is unfashionable, but at least he is confident of the material existence of the ground on which he sturdily plants his feet. He's a real bruiser for reality: in this short book, he punches his weight in defence of common sense against the effete, affected, artificial constructs of relativism.

All that jazz

A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON
By Stuart Nicholson
Sidgwick & Jackson, £20
ISBN 0 283 06338 6

THE current fashion for biography, exemplified by George Plimpton's recent biography of Truman Capote, as a cut and paste compilation of the testimony from the subject himself, his friends, family and associates, and with minimal authorial linking narrative, is perpetuated here to immediate effect. Compiled from first hand sources, it takes jazz back to its roots, profiling the Duke, one of its polymathic greys, in this centennial year of his birth. A terrific rap.

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ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

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From Victoria to the millennium



Victorian Gothic architecture provides a genteel façade for a modern academic outlook

Though dressed mostly in the garb of Victorian Gothic architecture, St Edward's is not afraid to grasp the torch of progress. Tradition is respected, but the future is embraced and the school provides a system of education that denies isolation yet retains the bonds that hold a school together. It acknowledges that academic and sporting success (at which the school excels) are not the be-all and end-all of education.

The school aims to have a broad intake. A common entrance mark of 50 per cent, as an average of all the papers, is needed for entry — below the level required by many "metropolitan powerhouses" but it fits St Edward's philosophy.

"We like a range of pupils and that includes a broad intellectual range as well as a wide range of talents, be they sporting, artistic, musical," says David Christie, the Warden (headmaster). "Children get a better education the more they mix with people of a wide range of abilities and background; this prepares them better for the future."

In *The Times* A-level school league table last year the school came 351st in the country. And with 15 Oxbridge places being awarded to pupils in 1998 (out of about 90), the children's intellects are not suffering.

Mr Christie's philosophy and enthusiasm stem from his teaching experiences. One of the few public school headmasters with a background in the state sector, he originally taught at George Watson's in Edinburgh.

He then trained teachers at Moray House College, also in Edinburgh, which moulded his thoughts on schooling: "The old style of teacher training was a difficult, frustrating task. Things have changed, thankfully." From there he went to the European School in Luxembourg, teaching the children of European civil servants. With its emphasis on languages and understanding other countries' cultures, it was a revelation.

Mr Christie was the head of economics at Winchester before joining St Edward's in 1988. He has just returned from a sabbatical in the US, where he lectured on the Scottish Enlightenment's influence on America in the 18th century, and his dynamic approach

For 136 years St Edward's School has played a unique part in Oxford life. Its new sports centre, to be shared with the public, is a groundbreaker. George Pendle presents a two-page report

to education has prompted many changes at the school, from coeducation to the founding of the new sports complex. "I want to provide more and more facilities for the pupils so that they can develop their different intelligences and their different skills working together with other people, communicating with other people. I want them to be fit for life."

St Edward's primarily offers a boarding education, (there are three times as many boarders as day pupils) but even day pupils are at the school from 8.30am to 9pm. From September there will be ten houses — seven for boys, three for girls. The fees — £4,750 a term for boarders and £3,380 a term for day pupils — are not cheap. But there are many scholarships on offer for academic, music, art or all-round skills.

Last year 31 scholarships and exhibitions were awarded.

With a pupil-staff ratio of 8 to 1 and a staff turnover of less than 10 per cent a year, the school is neither stretched for resources nor understaffed. It has links with Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities; indeed several pupils are sons of dons. Many an Oxford don, says Mr Christie, has cycled over to the school to give talks. The pupils also have the chance to use the university's famed Ashmolean and Science Museums.

Within the school, departments are equally up to speed with information technology. Foreign language classes spend at least one lesson a week in the computer room, on which £300,000 has been spent in the past two years.

Ian Rowley, the head of modern languages (one of the school's most successful areas) sees IT as a great benefit. He says: "Using computers allows students of different academic ability to work in the same classroom without holding each other up or going too quickly. Thus, it enables students to be challenged at their own rate. When it comes to grammar, using the computer helps to sweeten the pill. It is a motivation for staff as well as pupils."

St Edward's has certainly given greater priority to academic work in the past ten years than it had previously. "The world has changed; gone are the days when mere attendance at a public school guaranteed the opening of doors," says Mr Christie. "I'm glad that people



David Christie, Warden

are taken on their merits. The world is more competitive and children must be more flexible. We have a good number of very able pupils; we also have pupils of average ability — that is the environment in which people learn best.

"I believe in breadth, in preparing people for the future. I want them to have a good life, to feel happy and confident about themselves, able to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves and to have fun with a wide range of people."

"At the same time you hope that can happen while pupils are having a worthwhile, interesting and fulfilling time at the school. Any school that looks only to the future and forgets that five years has to be spent within its walls cannot provide a good education."

A look back in honour

In 1863 Thomas Chamberlain, a High Church clergyman, founded four schools in Oxford as part of the "Oxford Movement", a religious movement advocating traditional forms of worship. *George Pendle writes.*

Of the four schools founded, only St Edward's remains, having moved north from its original site in the city centre in 1873 to Summertown, where it straddles the Woodstock Road. The area was developed in the late 19th century.

St Edward's soon disposed of the OM's dogma, while retaining the magnificent Gothic architecture that had come with it. Almost in defiance of its past the school now has a woman chaplain and, most liberally of all, optional chapel attendance for pupils.

"We do not make pupils attend an act of worship on Sundays," David Christie says. "We have people here of every faith and none."

Although St Edward's has never been a large school (its



Old boys: dambuster Guy Gibson, novelist Kenneth Grahame and actor Lord Olivier



HISTORY

pupils have in recent years numbered around 600), it has nevertheless produced an impressive list of old boys. Kenneth Grahame was one of the first pupils at the school.

Its verdant setting left a great impression in his mind and was possibly the origin of his classic tale of riverbank life. Breaking out of the late-Victorian stuffiness that had created the school, he wrote

the escapist *The Wind in the Willows*.

Both boys and masters served in the world wars, many giving their lives. The chapel is a shrine to their endeavour, the walls being engraved with their names.

Two of St Edward's old boys gained recognition for the roles they played in the RAF during the Second World War. Wing Commander Guy Gibson became a hero for leading the famous 'Dambusters' raid in 1943. Sir

Douglas Bader was also a pupil at St Edward's. He is remembered in the names of school buildings and was a friend to the school up until his death. Laurence Olivier was another old boy and played his first Shakespearean role at the school (*Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream*), instigating a theatrical tradition that continues to this day. Other old boys include Jon Snow, the television journalist, and George Fenton, the film music composer.

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ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

Slow to take the plunge, but girl power pays dividends

George Pendle reports on how the 'giant step' of going coeducational brought balance and growth to the boarding school

ONE of the most significant changes undertaken by the school in recent times has been the implementation of complete coeducation.

Girls first arrived at St Edward's in 1983, but only into the sixth form. When David Christie arrived as Warden in 1988 he was already looking towards beginning coeducation throughout the school, but it took nine years of consideration before they could be admitted.

"Full integration of girls into the school was considered and turned down twice," he explains. "We didn't have enough female teachers and we didn't have enough experience in educating large numbers of girls."

The school had to adjust not only its pastoral care, but also to work out the logistics of housing all the new pupils. A lot of planning had to be done, but eventually the giant step

was taken in 1997. Of course the impact of that "giant step" has, as hoped, dissipated almost completely. St Edward's is now a co-ed school and you could not tell it had ever been anything else. Many of the pupils and teachers have almost forgotten what life was like before the change.

Nick McEwen, the joint head of school, verifies that opinion: "It was strange at first seeing younger girls, but within days it seemed like it had always been this way. It's really made the school more interesting. You get a 14-year-old girl involved in a play with senior boys and she can hold her own completely."

There are two girls' houses — Macnamara's and Oakthorpe — and this September one of the boys' houses (Corfe) will become a third girls' house, while the displaced boys will move into the new residential house. "I think the new house is a big statement on the attitude of St

Edward's," says Mr Christie. "We believe in boarding."

The introduction of girls has meant an equal shedding of places for boys but the school is at the moment growing towards its optimum size of 600 pupils. Every public school needs more pupils, but St Edward's seems to have avoided the trend of looking abroad for students.

There are, of course, pupils from overseas at St Edward's but the essential character of the school is very modern and very English. Going coeducational has not only helped increase intake, but it also chimes in with the school's philosophy of a complete education.

"I've always been in favour of coeducation," says Mr Christie. "I think without it you are inhibiting the educational process. That's my own opinion and others might disagree. One benefit of independence is that schools can choose the model they believe in."



Girls have been fully integrated into school life; the decision has meant that St Edward's can offer a more rounded education

Team effort clinches £6m sports centre

In a unique deal, commerce is funding a complex that will be open to public and pupils

DAVID Christie, the Warden of St Edward's for the past 11 years, has a gleam in his eye. "There may be other examples of this but I don't know of any," he says with a smile.

St Edward's is about to undertake a scheme unheard of in private schooling. In co-operation with the First Leisure group, work is about to begin on a £6 million sports centre in the school grounds that will be open to the public and the pupils.

Such an undertaking would seem to create a huge headache but not, it seems, for Mr Christie whose smile is undimmed. No wonder: the sports complex is to be built entirely at First Leisure's expense while the school needs to provide only the land, on lease. Clearly, both sides will benefit from the arrangement.

The new multipurpose health and fitness centre is set to be the envy of many larger establishments and will include indoor tennis courts, squash courts, a 25-metre swimming pool, a gymnasium and an aerobics studio.

In addition to access to some of the most up-to-date facilities, a large sports hall is being built for the exclusive use of the pupils. First Leisure has undertaken to maintain the entire centre, swimming pool and all. The school will have no maintenance costs.

Such a foray into the commercial market is bound to raise eyebrows, but Mr Christie has few apprehensions.

"As a schoolmaster, not a businessman, one is always concerned that we are not getting the best deal, but our relations with First Leisure have been excellent. We are teachers, not leisure centre managers. We want to concentrate on what we are good at and leave the management to those skilled in that area."

The advantages of such a scheme are clear and look set to spur the interest of other schools — the centre has been gained without a penny being put on fees.

"Through this scheme we've enhanced our facilities enormously," Mr Christie says, "but simultaneously there's nothing that's putting a financial barrier up to people coming to the school, either through raised borrowing or

increasing the fees and that's what's so exciting. Our pupils' interests always come first."

Indeed, at a time when many private school pupils are becoming secondary considerations to the financial running of a school, it is a refreshing change to see business and teaching harmonised so readily and successfully as they have been here.

Although the construction of the centre has been ceded to First Leisure, there is no question of outsourcing of the school's sports teaching. St Edward's staff will continue to run physical education and games to the high standards that have made it a feared presence on sports pitches.

The school's previous sports centre was also used by the public, who are expected to

apply in some numbers for membership of the complex, set within the grounds in the affluent Summertown area of North Oxford.

Having members of the community using the new complex also helps to strengthen the school's bond with the area. "Even if we had the £6 million to build this centre, we would still want the public to be using it," Mr Christie says.

Under the careful eye of David Bramble, the former bursar, it is hoped that the centre will be fully operational by next summer.

Mr Bramble initiated the project and, despite his retirement, will see it through to completion as project manager. He points out that there has been "a massive improvement in both the sporting and

academic facilities for pupils in recent years."

At the same time as the sports centre is being built a new boarding house is also being completed. Senior pupils' rooms will feature en suite facilities. "It's the way things are going," says Mr Christie. "Unless schemes are found like the one we are involved in, the costs will continue to escalate."

Between May and February the new buildings will replace the present Douglas Bader sports centre but the name will remain intact.

The preservation of the memory of one of the school's greatest old boys is seen as important — the one concession to the past in a project that is resolutely looking towards the future.

Pupils excel at rowing and rugby

SPORT

"THERE is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." So said Kenneth Grahame, one of St Edward's most illustrious old boys, who surely must have picked up the habit as a pupil here.

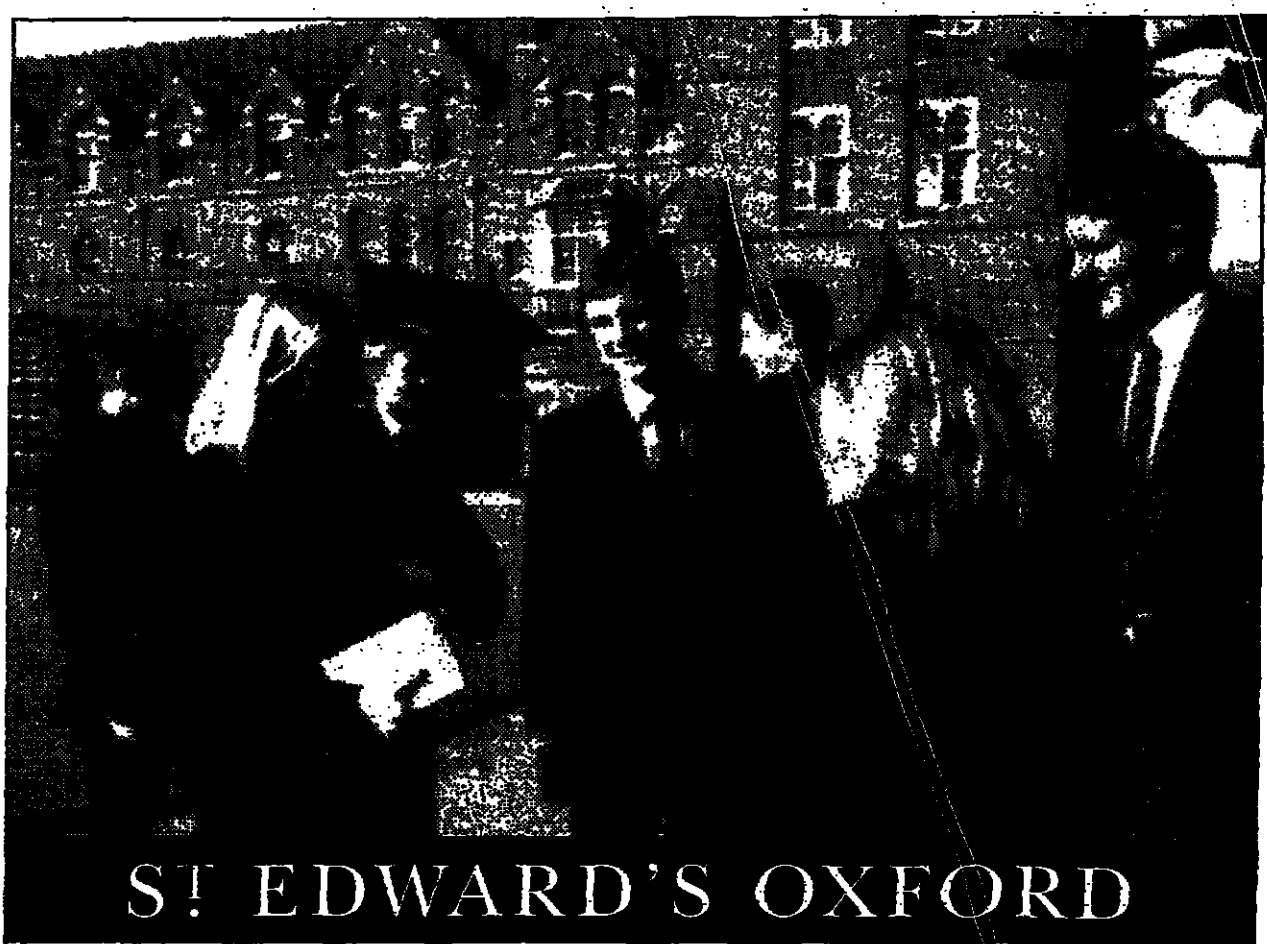
The boating tradition continues at St Edward's to this day, only now it is a little more than just "messing about". St Edward's prides itself on its sporting success and especially on its rowing. Winner of the schools' Head of the River race in both 1997 and 1998, St Edward's even set a new course record in its last triumph.

Strong competitors at the National Schools Regatta and Henley, some of the rowers go on to gain Blues in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. Girls' rowing is also taking off, and it is hoped that they will emulate the success of the boys' crews. The school, however, does offer rowing at all levels, not just for the top teams, and with a boathouse on the nearby Thames, it takes place in surroundings of which Toad and Mole would surely have approved.

Yet rowing in no way eclipses the other sports on offer. The rugby team can boast an under-19 England international among its ranks. It won all but one of its games last season. The school is always a strong contestant in the Rosslyn Park Sevens competition. The girls' skiing team has also won many medals.

Almost every pupil takes part in a sporting activity of some kind (there are three or four teams for each sport in each year group) and the 90 acres of sports fields at the school allows a lot to take place. A new six-hole golf course is now on site and the soon to be constructed leisure complex will offer an enviable amount of alternative sports to take part in.

The advent of an all-weather pitch has led to a renaissance in hockey. Apart from that, sailing, athletics, and more are on offer.



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BRITISH ISLES

EASTBOURNE is angry at a new Thomson television commercial depicting the place as the kind of sleepy resort you avoid for the fishpots of Europe. *Tony Dawe* writes.

To show just what the town can offer, *Elite Hotels* has a special deal this Bank Holiday weekend: a two-night break at the five-star Grand for £99 between Friday and Monday. Similar deals are available at the group's hotels in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex and Hook in Hampshire. Details: 01323 412345.

ST HELIER is the sunniest town in the British Isles — and that's official — so it could be the best place for the first Bank Holiday week of May.

Thomas Cook Holidays is offering a week's B&B at a guest-house close to shops and the beach for £261, with a return flight from Gatwick on Sunday. Details: 01733 418300.

TENNIS, swimming, a gym and sauna are all on hand and the peace, tranquillity and donkeys of the New Forest on the doorstep of the Passford House Hotel, where Sunvil UK is offering Bank Holiday weekend breaks at special rates. Arrive tomorrow or Saturday and two nights' B&B costs £64.50. Details: 0181-232 9788.

DINGLE Peninsula can claim to be the wildest and most beautiful part of the West of Ireland and has well-located holiday cottages available at a discount from May 8. A week's self-catering with Irish Ferries Holidays costs £85, based on four sharing and with a Pembroke-Rosslare ferry crossing for car and passengers. Details: 08705 170000.

NORTH YORK MOORS is Britain's least appreciated National Park, but Intravel is offering the chance to discover it on a four-night walking trip from May 14, which costs £315 with half-board in atmospheric inns. Details: 01653 628862.

VILLAS and apartments in converted farmhouses on wine and olive-growing estates throughout Tuscany are available all next month from Crystal Premier Italy. Deals offering two weeks for the price of one are running until May 15. Prices start at £329, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-390 5554.

MONET fans who missed the London exhibition of his paintings can see some of his work at the Orangerie Museum in Paris, which houses his largest pictures and will show a special collection of 60 paintings from May 6. Two nights' B&B, Eurostar travel and entry to the exhibition will cost from £163 with Time Off. Details: 0990 846363.

KEFALONIA for a week from Sunday for £139 and Skiathos for a week from Monday for £99, both self-catering and with flights from Manchester, are the best and most immediate offers to the Greek islands this week from Kosmar. Details: 0181-882 6999.

VENICE can be explored on a fortnight's Airtours holiday available from Co-op Travelcare for £219 and starting on Sunday. The offer includes half-board on the Venetian Riviera and flights from Gatwick. Details: 0541 500388.

SAVINGS of £200 on spring walking breaks in the Pays Basque are available with Pyrenées Adventures, cutting the cost of a week's peaks and valleys holiday from May 8 to £295 with full board. Travel is extra and return high-speed rail tickets from London cost £165. Details: 01433 621498.

HAMBURG'S biggest party, celebrating the 810th birthday of the city's famous harbour, takes place from May 7 to 9 and Lufthansa has special fares for those wanting to join the celebrations. Return flights from Heathrow cost £140 and Benz Travel can book them and accommodation. Details: 0171-462 0000.

ATHENS and its classical sites, plus the palaces, mosques and bazaars of Istanbul — with a five-night cruise in between — are all included in ten-night trips with Sovereign, which start with flights from Heathrow on May 20 and 25. Prices now start from £900. Details: 08707 500500.



At the Acropolis: a special deal to Athens is on offer

LONG HAUL

CRUISING in the Far East for five days to resorts in Thailand and Malaysia is combined with two nights in Singapore on a special package available from Premier Holidays for £929. Fly from Heathrow on May 18 and 25 with Singapore Airlines to take advantage. Details: 01223 516677.

FOR those who prefer to stay on dry land, Asean Explorer is offering two weeks at beach resorts in Hua Hin, Thailand, for the price of one. The deal runs for the next two months and costs from £684, including return scheduled flights. Details: 01481 823417.

EMIRATES is busy flying cricketers and their supporters to the World Cup in Britain in mid-May, so there is plenty of space in its home town of Dubai, where Tradewinds is offering six-night breaks at the four-star Oasis Beach Hotel for £499. The holidays are available with flights from Gatwick on May 19 and 26. Details: 0870-751 0004.

NAIROBI for £298 return tops the flight deals on offer this week and is available

from Bridge The World for departures from Heathrow until the end of June. For those who can escape with small children in the next three weeks, Bon Voyage is offering Orlando for £315 return from Gatwick with two to 11-year-olds going free subject to complicated conditions. Details: Bridge The World, 0171-911 0900, Bon Voyage, 0800-316 0194.

The Nairobi offer could be used to join Dragonair's African adventure starting from the Kenyan capital on May 3 and 17. A five-week tour takes in many of East and Southern Africa's most splendid sites, including the Ngorongoro Crater, Zanzibar and a floating safari on Lake Kariba. The price of £1,035, plus a £300 kitty, includes travel, accommodation (mostly camping) and meals. Details: 01728 861133.

● All prices are per person and based on two sharing, unless otherwise stated.

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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PLUS: FREE SIMPSONS POSTERS WORTH £3.99 EACH AND DISCOUNTS OFF T-SHIRTS, CLOCKS AND MUGS

Today *The Times* offers one lucky reader the chance to meet Nancy Cartwright, left, the actress behind the voice of Bart Simpson* at an exclusive private preview of *The Art of Bart* at the Animation Art Gallery, Great Castle Street, London, W1 on Friday, May 14. The winner will also be given a signed, limited edition of Simpsons artwork, illustrated.

Every reader can get a free Simpsons poster titled *Deep Thoughts of Homer Simpson* worth £3.99 simply by attaching three differently numbered tokens to the voucher which will be published in *The Times* on Saturday and presenting it at any Virgin Megastore in the UK and Eire.

With the voucher you can also buy T-shirts in a choice of two designs for children or adults from £7.99 (usually £9.99-£11.99) and have £10 off Simpsons clocks (usually £39.99) and £1 off mugs (usually £5.99).

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to meet the voice of Bart Simpson and win the signed artwork, simply call our competition hotline, below, with the answer to this question: Which town do the Simpsons live in? Lines are open until midnight on Tuesday, May 4.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Salter returns to blaze trail for Bev's Babes

By Christopher Irvine

FROM West Hartlepool to Wembley. Six weeks ago, Matt Salter was embroiled in a relegation battle in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division when the call arrived from London Broncos. In an almost surreal transition back to rugby league the following week, the Blackheath-born player was pitched into the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final with Castleford Tigers. Three days away from the final, Salter, 22, is still pinching himself. The Broncos had not offered him a contract for this season, but still kept his registration. West Hartlepool showed an interest, so, three years after last playing union, Salter moved to the North East, resigned to the fact that his short league career was probably over.

When West Hartlepool encountered financial difficulties and Salter was forced to take a ten per cent pay cut, the call from Dan Stains, the London coach, was nearly direct. "He told me they had a prop crisis with Darren Bradstreet and Grant Young injured, that they wanted me immediately and was I available? As West were in breach of contract, I didn't have much hesitation," he said.

He came off the bench at Castleford and has been busy since relearning all the habits that he had spent five months trying to forget.



Only six weeks ago, Salter was involved in a union dogfight

responded to newspaper advertisements, and beat traditional sides, where boys ate and slept the game.

"We once beat the Wigan Academy side 30-10," Salter said. "There was no way a bunch of players from union were going to do that, but with the Australian lads, we gained in confidence and knowledge." Peters, 20, questioned his decision after being knocked unconscious in his first match. "It seemed far too tough for a young London kid, but as I relished physical confrontation, it's proved the best form of channelling aggression. It's nothing to do with northern stereotyping and potbellied props. You have to be at your peak because it's so fast," he said.

More of "Bev's Babes" — Wayne Sykes, Ed Jennings, James Brooks and Stefan Hughes — have graduated to the first-team squad. "Even with the Academy side today, you get people calling them the Aussies. Actually, they're all from London, except three from Oxford, Barrow and Gateshead," Risman said.

Nevertheless, Australian accents proliferate still at the Sloop Memorial Ground, including that of Stains, who has a vision of an all-London team. More than 20,000 children have been introduced to the game through the club's schools programme. Most of the 23 trainees come from within the M25 boundary and one, Bobby Wallis, from Feltham Community College, down the road from the Sloop, is the first boy from the South to be chosen for the Great Britain Under-16 squad, which tours Australia this summer.

Under Dave Evans, the Broncos development manager, teams now operate from under-13 level. "Wembley has obviously helped with the awareness factor," he said. "It's a question of harnessing the talent out there."

Bobby Wallis is a prime example of a kid who's probably never heard of rugby league before, but turns out to have a natural aptitude for it. It's going to take ten years, but I reckon you'll then see a totally home-bred London team."

Landlubbers will be hoping for settled weather over the May Bank Holiday but the best of the nation's surfers will be praying for winds strong enough to make waves.

Fistral beach, Newquay, is the venue for the English national championships and, come rain or shine, Sarah Whiteley, the women's title-holder, will be wearing her thickest wet suit.

For her, the seas will feel like a freezing plunge pool after the hot tub, for Whiteley has spent the past six months rollercoasting waves in exotic locations such as Bali, Australia and Hawaii. "I only got back this week so the cold was a bit of a shock," she said. "The difference in water temperature takes your breath away, but I'll be ready by the weekend."

Just as well, for she will have to repulse a strong tide of challengers. According to Karen Walton, secretary of the British Surfing Association, there are approximately 100,000 surfers in Britain, of which five per cent are women. "We are seeing a big increase in the numbers of women joining and taking part in competitions," Walton said. "Female participation has been doubling every year over the past five years."

Whiteley dedicated to chasing breakers

Which also means a slow dilution of surfing's macho image. "It is changing and now there's even a surfing magazine for women," Whiteley said. "I've always thought it's a bit sad if you surf just to look cool. For me, the joy is that it's so natural. It sounds corny, but you can get out there, forget everything and express yourself."

Water sport was a natural choice for Whiteley, 21, for she was brought up in Saunton, on the North Devon coast, in a spectacular house called "Breakers", where the front lawn rolls down to meet the sea. "Although I was a tomboy and loved all sports at school, it was easy to fall for surfing," she said. "As soon as I got a surfboard that was it."

Many people learn by joining a club; Whiteley picked it up from the locals who were riding the waves almost on her doorstep. "I watched other people closely and read magazines," she said. "The waves break very

SARAH POTTER



slowly at Saunton, so it's an ideal place to learn. It's also a very friendly atmosphere, so the old boys and the local crew gave me lots of tips." At 16, she was encouraged by the owner of the local surf shop to enter her first competition.

"He said he'd pay my entry fee and as it was just around the corner in Woolacombe I figured I had nothing to lose," she said. "When I won I wanted more. Now, when she is home for the summer months, her favourite beach is a pebble's throw up the coast at Croyde, where hollow, powerful waves make for good competition training. According to Whiteley, scoring points in front of judges involves a deal of luck. "You're judged on three waves in a 20-minute heat," she said. "Basically, it's about making as many moves — zigzagging, cutbacks, figures of eight — as you can at the critical point of the wave. Off the top of the wave you try and get as vertical as you can but it can be frustrating because you can paddle out there and always be in the wrong place when the wave arrives. In that sense, it's not a level playing field."

Nor does it necessarily follow that the most talented

compete at the level. "Whiteley more than makes up for it by being a determined and recognised elf who's enough points in the WQuali-Series," she said. "You go to the Worlpoint Tour. There's 15 en professionalising event giving you have to test yourself all the world's fiercest surfers. I don't have a lot of money, but I have a lot of passion. I really want to use my passion to make a difference. I'm not a person who's just in it for the money. I'm in it for the love of the sport."

Sale forced to make further cuts

By Mark Souster

THE upheaval at Manchester Sale continued yesterday with David Rees and Phil Greening, the England international, having to contemplate the prospect of salary cuts and other players being put on the transfer list. Among them was Dion O'Cuinnagain, the Ireland flanker, who only recently signed a new two-year contract at Heywood Road.

O'Cuinnagain was surprised to find himself named among those available for transfer and is seeking clarification from the club about his future. Kevin Ellis and John Devereaux are already available and have now been joined by four members of the development squad.

One player likely to move is Chris Yates, the centre, who is expected to join Gloucester. Adrian Hadley, the director of rugby, said: "We have had an offer from Gloucester for Chris Yates but nothing has been finalised. I have been given the task of producing a competitive squad for next season within a budget of £1.5 million. We have no option other than to lose some players. Sale have been badly managed regarding contracts and salaries and unfortunately I have to pick up the pieces."

Wasp, who appointed John Mitchell, the former Sale coach, as forwards' coach on a temporary basis until the end of the season, are hoping to confirm his full-time appointment shortly.

The International Rugby Board is considering contingency plans if Namibia cannot compete in the World Cup. The Namibian Government has suspended the Namibian Rugby Union for failing to fulfil an agreement to implement a quota of black players in the national side. If they are forced to withdraw, they are expected to be replaced by one of the losers from this weekend's repechage matches, involving Tonga, Uruguay, Morocco and South Korea.

Searle enjoys benefit of honing technique

By Mike Rosewell
Rowing Correspondent

GREG SEARLE defends his Wingfield Sculls title from Putney to Mortlake today, his first race since finishing fifth in the world championships last September. "I have had about a month's good training," Searle, who has just returned from injury, said.

While training less severely, Searle has concentrated on technique, a decision that he feels has paid dividends. He said: "I have improved my flexibility and boat feel. Ultimately I should go faster. I haven't got a clue how fast I am, but it feels good."

He will find out today in a race with three younger opponents trying to take the Wingfield title, one of whom, Tom Gale, led last year before

stopping at Chiswick Steps with tight forearms.

Giles Monnickendam, a lightweight at 73kg, took advantage of Searle's absence to take the Scullers Head title, while the other contender is Mark Hunter, from London, who has represented under-23 Britain at junior and under-23 level and who has won the apprentices' pennant at the Scullers Head a record five times. He will be eligible to compete for the coveted Dogger's Coat and Badge in 2001.

Johnson pys pce for casualproch

PAUL JOHNSON, the national champion, was beaten 2-9, 9-1, 3-9, 9-6 by Simon Frenz, of Germany, as England dropped a point in their defence of the European team championship yesterday. "I was casual," Johnson said. "When the match started to slip, I couldn't stop Simon playing his shots."

A quick study of Lee Beachill and Marcus Berrett, playing their first senior European matches, would have shown Johnson the way. Beachill exuded more perspiration than warming up for his third-string rubber than he did beating Florian Poss 10-8, 9-2, 9-0, an yesterday a 4-0 win over Stefan

From Colin Sullivan in Linz, Austria

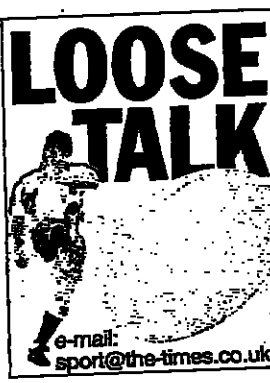
he England team began with a phony Brind Tania ley dropping a dozen between in ill and Marcus Berrett, play-losing of J Akervall. Maria Lark, after Suzanne Johnson the way. Beachill exuded more perspiration than warming up for his third-string rubber than he did beating Florian Poss 10-8, 9-2, 9-0, an yesterday a 4-0 win over Stefan

Reformers resigned to losing struggle

THE special general meeting forced upon the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is set to go ahead on June 6, at Twickenham, even though the union has been advised by its lawyers that whatever is decided will not be binding under the constitution. The Reform Group engineered the vote of no confidence in the RFU hierarchy and wants the management board overthrown. They will not back down, even though they only just managed to scrape together 100 clubs to support the motion.

Given the legal position, one wonders why the reformers are so determined to carry on and why the RFU — in the light of its legal advice — doesn't just scrap the whole thing, saving itself a possible £20,000? People mutter about democracy, but some believe that this is taking things too far.

Pole star
The Army not only won the Willis Corroon Trophy at Twickenham on Saturday, but one of their supporters also took away another prized souvenir. He defied gravity and possible serious injury by removing the White Ensign from the North Stand, hundreds of feet above ground. The brave



soul found his way on to a ladder at the back of the stand, shinned up and removed the colours. After the game, during which eight people streaked, four pubs in the area were reported to have closed early because they could not cope with the demand and possible trouble between rival supporters.

Neath contempt
The Welsh may have presented a united front during their win over England at Wembley, but according to Terry Holmes, club rugby in the Principality is riven with "petty jealousies". Holmes, whose eight-year tenure as coach at Cardiff ends shortly, said that one reason for his departure was the club's decision to throw in its lot with the Welsh Rugby Union. "I would have liked to see us as part of the Allied Dunbar (Premiership) — all Cardiff are going to get in Wales is the same old hatred," Holmes said. "Neath have been sounding off even though we have the best record of any Welsh club in the European Cup. What have Neath ever done in Europe, other than catch a plane?"

Big cheese
You would scarcely credit Philippe Saint Andre's popularity around Gloucester. Is it merely coincidence that local supermarkets now stock the

award-winning St Andre cheese, described as "full-fat soft cheese", which may not necessarily be the most apposite description of the Frenchman who is director of rugby at Kingsholm.

Cornish pasting
Spare a thought for Launceston. The Cornish side finished their 22-match league season in South West 1 level on points with Penzance & Newlyn with a huge points differential of plus 793 — yet still could not squeeze into the Jewson National League. In the final round of games, Launceston beat Gloucester Old Boys 84-17, but Penzance triumphed them by beating Torquay Athletic 131-5, giving them a better points advantage and so promotion.

Third way
The world's third significant annual international competition starts on Saturday with the opening round of matches in the inaugural Epson Cup. It involves Canada, Japan, the United States, Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga and runs over the next two weeks. It is backed by the International Rugby Board to the tune of £1.2 million over three years, as well as the support of the Japanese company.

MARK SOUSTER



Holmes "petty jealousies"



Saint Andre popular

Whiteley back in familiar surroundings on Croyde beach, near Saunton, after surfing in Bali and Hawaii. Photo: Guy Newn

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RACING: GODOLPHIN FIRMS 1,000 GUINEAS PLANS BUT DOUBTS SURROUND CALANDO AND MOTHER OF PEARL

Dettori pencils in ride on Pescara

STILL the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas refuses to emerge from its murky gestation. Though Sunday's classic has already been shown of several leading contenders, as late as yesterday ante-post punters found the door squeezing uncomfortably against the shoe. It appeared to slam on supporters of Calando, while those who have made Mother of Pearl as short as 10-1 will do well to get a run for their money.

Concrete plans remain a luxury, but at least the Godolphin team has acquired a measure of definition. Pescara, whose success in the fillies' trial at Nad al Sheba was a tribute to her progress in Dubai, is likely to be rewarded by the assistance of Frankie Dettori. Such, at any rate, was the natural interpretation of support for her, from 20-1 to 14-1 with Coral.

Though Calando dropped out of the equation after the arrivals from the desert stretched their legs on Newmarket Heath yesterday morning, Richard Hills is expected to ride Fairy Queen. Godolphin's personnel also seems sorted for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, with Dettori on Island Sands.

By CHRIS McGRATH

Esauar will be ridden by Michael Roberts. Even Godolphin is not immune to the misfortune of a three-year-old filly, having been forced to scratch Ediaz from the 1,000 Guineas earlier in the week. While doctor's orders are not a factor with Mother of Pearl, Peter Chapple-Hyam still rates her only "50-50" to come under the starter. She is more of a staying filly and will come into her own over a mile and half, the trainer said. "I'm more tempted to wait for the French or Irish Guineas or possibly go for the Musidora at York."

Chapple-Hyam remains more positive about Commander Collins, though there appears less conviction to the colt's tenure near the head of the 2,000 Guineas field. Advising punters not to forget his other runner, Brancaster, the trainer might find his upbeat approach open to misinterpretation.

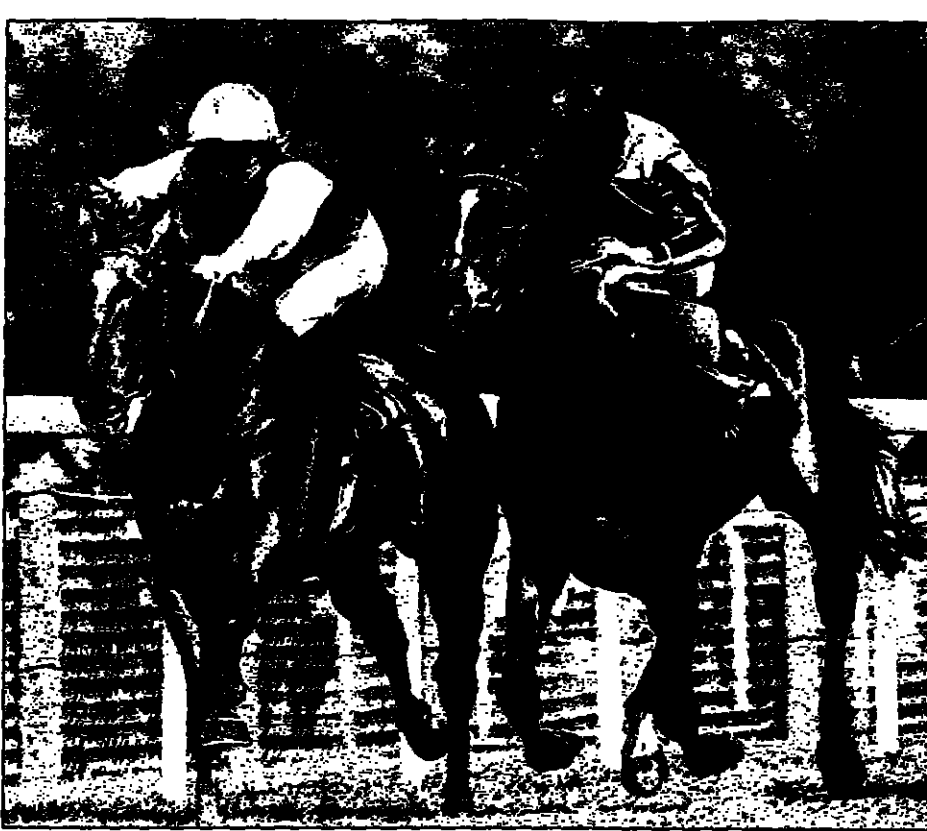
"There's nothing to choose between them at home," he said. "They go to Newmarket with equal chances." These, no doubt, are the very last words

backers of Commander Collins wished to hear.

Manton has still to produce a winner this season whereas Henry Cecil, also facing a weekend, could be emboldened by the listed-race success of Inisinate at Ascot yesterday. Enrique contests 2,000 Guineas favouritism despite faltering in front in the Greenham Stakes, while Wince staked a sufficient 1,000 Guineas claim in the Fred Darling Stakes for Hills to go 10-1 from 14-1 yesterday.

They both went nicely this morning, Cecil said. "I'm delighted with them, and they both have a great chance of being in the first three. Wince is improving, while Enrique thought he'd done enough after being in front too soon. A lot of mine are needing a race, and they should come on."

Life is never dull for those who follow the fortunes of Celeric, the long-distance runner who needs to be ridden for a turn of foot. But Richard Quinn was quick to tell the stopping challenge of retraining him until well inside the last furlong of the Inisinate Sagaro Stakes. Celeric is now 8-1 with Coral to retrieve the Gold Cup he won in 1997.



Celeric, right, lands the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

REDCAR
Flat, 6 furlongs
1st race: 2.20
Winning favourite: 34.3%
Long-distance travellers: Thats Life (13.20), Myndrom (13.20), Mt Speculation (12.20), 273 miles

WOLVERHAMPTON
Flat, 7 furlongs
1st race: 2.10
Winning favourite: 32.2%
Long-distance travellers: Arbor Esils (3.10), 146 miles

BRIGHTON
Flat, 6 furlongs
1st race: 2.00
Winning favourite: 36.4%
Long-distance travellers: Sontime (2.00), Arbutus (2.00), 192 miles

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Swinford
Dream
1st race: 1.45
1st race: 1.45
1st race: 1.45

See racecards for detailed going

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot
Good, good to soft in places.
2.00 (1m), OPTIMATTE (1) (Spartan, 15-8) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 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CRICKET

Lewis gives further reminder of quality

By MARK BALDWIN

LEICESTER (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Leicester have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

AROUND the country, attention is centred, understandably, on players earmarked for World Cup action. At Grace Road yesterday, for instance, Ian Austin provoked more than a few murmurs by pulling out of the meeting between the champions and runners-up of last season.

A potentially heavyweight PPP county championship contest was also scaled down somewhat by the absence from the Lancashire team of Fairbrother, another member of the England World Cup squad, Martin and Atherton. Fairbrother was rested and Austin has a thigh muscle strain.

In the circumstances, the likes of Darren Maddy and Chris Lewis had to fight hard to be noticed. But, in the end, noticed they were. Form and fitness seemed to be commodities in worryingly short supply in the England camp, but Austin moved to calm fears that his injury might jeopardise his involvement in the World Cup.

He has played only one CGU National League match this season, plus his three appearances in Sharjah, since having an operation on his left knee during the winter, but Austin said: "I don't think there is a serious problem. I have had some improvement in the thigh but not enough to play in a four-day game. As far as I am concerned I will be on schedule for the World Cup."

The absence of Austin and Martin, also injured, allowed Smeethurst, 22, to make his second championship appearance and he picked up the wicket of Smith after Crawley, the Lancashire captain, had, perhaps defensively, chosen to

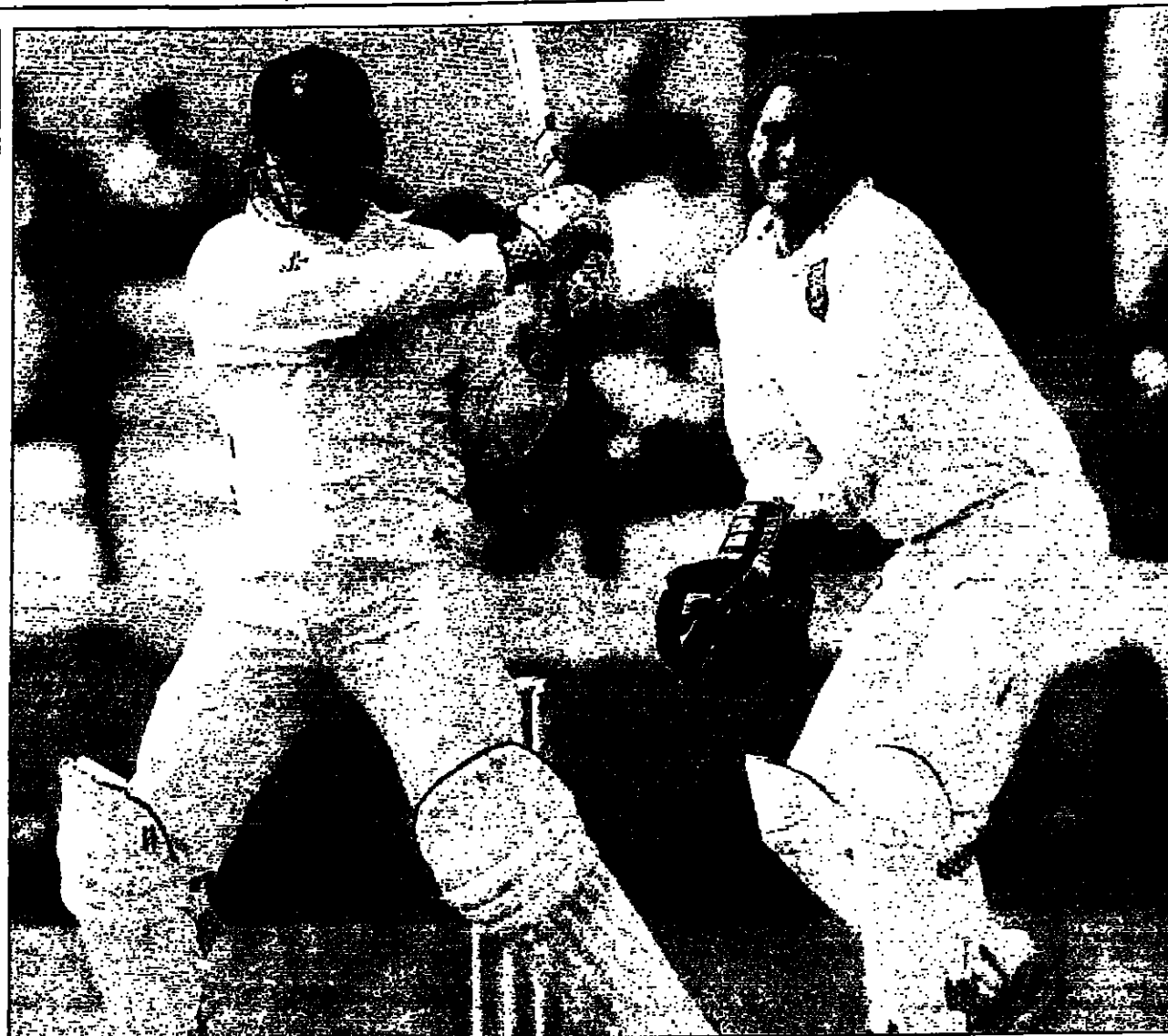
bowl first. It was Richard Green, however, who caught the eye in an inexperienced attack: he took four top-order wickets and a smart return catch to end Maddy's innings. Maddy, sixth out, scored 86 and has come back strongly from shabby treatment by the England selectors just under a year ago. The parallels with the start of the 1998 season are already apparent. Maddy, returning then as now from a successful winter A tour, began in good form and was picked for the Texaco Trophy against South Africa with a Test debut widely predicted to follow.

It never happened. He made one run in his only innings in two Texaco matches and Maddy's confidence clearly undermined — eventually struggled to a pitiful 512 championship runs from 23 innings, one of those being a 162, against Durham.

Yesterday, however, he battled with great assurance against the moving ball and now, with two full months before the Test series against New Zealand, has plenty of opportunity to put the painful memories behind him.

Lewis would be the choice of many people as a World Cup all-rounder ahead of the likes of Austin, including, by some accounts, Alec Stewart. Lewis made 139 a fortnight ago when Lancashire launched the defence of their title by thrashing Essex and yesterday another massive contribution in the context of this game.

First with Nixon and then in a last-wicket stand of 72 with Brimston, Lewis denied Lancashire's tangle reared for a spirited deployment of their limited resources. Batting is not likely to be straightforward against Lancashire's pace attack and Chilton may rue dropping Lewis, on 30, off Green.



Kendall pulls powerfully towards the boundary as Speight, the wicketkeeper, looks on. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

Kendall in mint condition

By RICHARD HOBSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 344 for eight wickets against Durham

THERE is much wisdom in the adage that practice makes perfect, but Will Kendall will testify that rest, too, has a role in the quest to improve. A decision to leave his bat untouched from the end of last season until the beginning of March is beginning to appear inspired.

Last week, Kendall scored 93 for Hampshire against Kent, when a leading edge resulted in Martin McCague accepting a return catch. He was entitled to feel disappointed with his dismissal yesterday, for attempting to work John Wood off his pads carried a certain resemblance, but this time a career-best score in the county championship of 105 ensured that satisfaction soon replaced any initial frustration.

With Adrian Aymes and Derek Kenway contributing half-centuries and Dimitri

Mascarenhas scoring 44 to secure the innings, Hampshire enjoyed much the better of a first day played, for the most part, in what older spectators were able to identify as sunshine. They are the only side yet to record a first-class victory against Durham, but that might change before the weekend is over.

Having withstood a searching examination of his back-foot technique against the pace of Harrison, on a generally

slow pitch, Kendall accumulated his runs plegmatically as a quartet of Durham seamers failed to bowl with the consistency that Boon, the captain, would have required. It said much that soon after lunch he should turn to the off-spin of Gough, who bowled 24 overs in eight matches last season.

Durham had begun constructively, Lewis, at short leg, reacted swiftly to remove Stephenson and White in the first hour and Wood, maintain-

ing a length to assist swing, then forced an outside edge from Smith, which Betts held alertly at third slip. Yet having restricted Hampshire to 70 for three, they allowed Kendall and Aymes to reverse the situation with a partnership of 142 in 40 overs.

Aymes, who has established himself at No 5, played neatly between mid-on and mid-off, while Kendall remained unhurried, knowing that the "four ball" was never far away. His fifty arrived after 122 minutes with five fours and he breached the boundary on nine further occasions in progressing to three figures.

Aymes drove a half-volley back to Wood and as Kendall, after 211 minutes, provided Speight with a catch, the bowler could reflect upon belated reward for the occasions when he beat the outside edge in a far better first spell. Kenway, who is one run away from equalling his career-best of 57 today, and Mascarenhas then put on 63 to ensure that the efforts of the top order would not go to waste.

SCOREBOARD FROM CHESTER-LE-STREET

HAMPSHIRE First Innings	
G W White c Lewis b Harrison.....25	
J P Stephenson c Lewis b Brown.....7	
W S Kendall c Speight b Wood.....105	
"R A Smith c Betts b Wood.....10	
1A N Aymes c and b Wood.....51	
D A Kenway not out.....56	
A D Mascarenhas b Collingwood.....44	
S D Uddell not out.....1	
A C Morris c Collingwood b Brown.....1	
N A M McLean not out.....4	
Extras (b 2, lb 13, nb 24).....39	
Total (8 wickets, 105 overs).....344	
S J Renshaw to bat	

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-39, 3-70, 4-121, 5-239, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340.	
BOWLING: Brown 24-6-64-2, Betts 21-8-54-1, Harrison 18-2-83-1, Wood 23-4-76-3, Gough 7-2-23-0, Collingwood 12-2-29-1.	
DURHAM: J B Lewis, M A Gough, J E Morris, J A Daley, "D C Boon, P D Collingwood, T M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harrison.	
Bonus points: Durham 3 Hampshire 3.	
Umpires: N A Maller and K E Palmer.	

Johnson in renaissance

By PAT GIBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 377 for five wickets against Worcestershire

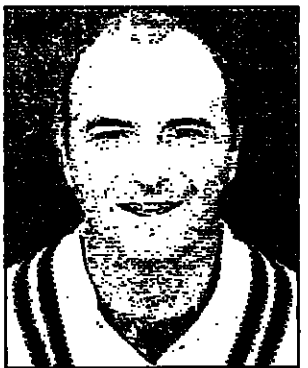
PAUL JOHNSON must be the best batsman of his generation never to have played for the England senior team. He did not look it last season when he was buckling under the burden of captaining Nottinghamshire, but he was back to his best yesterday with a century that was as warning to the Trent Bridge faithful as the long overdue sunshine.

It was an early return to Nottinghamshire's initiative in bringing back Clive Rice, who led them to two county championships in the Eighties, as manager. The first thing that Johnson did on hearing the news was to sign a new contract. The second thing he did was to get himself fit, knowing how Rice would make him suffer if he was not.

As a result, he looked born again as he went within two runs of scoring 100 between

lunch and tea with his own pugnacious brand of stroke-play. Johnson's on-drives are better described as straight lefts, his cuts as forearm jabs and his pulls as uppercuts.

Jason Gallian also asserted himself by passing 50 for the first time in 13 championship innings since taking over the captaincy last July and Chris Read, the England A wicket-keeper, put on a nice little ex-



Johnson: return to form

hibition of batting in front of David Graventy, the chairman of selectors.

It all added up to maximum batting points for a side which performed that feat only once last summer. What is more, they did it on a grassy pitch.

There was bounce and movement, but unfortunately for Worcestershire, once Liprot had added to his five wickets against Surrey last week by having Robinson caught at third slip in his first over, they could not put the ball in the right place often enough.

Aszal found it hard, making only 12 in the best part of two hours before Leatherdale had him caught behind, but Gallian was beginning to find some form with 82 in a little more than three hours, including 16 fours, when Lampitt claimed him leg-before.

Then there was Johnson, reviving memories of how he was rated ahead of Thorpe and Hussain in the 1991-92 A tour of the West Indies, and finally Read, more than justifying his promotion to No 6.

Smith takes dashing lead

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

THE tale has become a familiar one for Essex. Just as they did against Leicestershire in their first championship match of the season, for a while they lived with, even dominated, Warwickshire yesterday. It was tempting to believe that the corner had been turned and a run of championship defeats that stretches to seven matches could be arrested.

With the considerable advantage of having won the toss, Essex found little resistance in reducing Warwickshire to 84 for six by lunch on a two-paced pitch, with all six top-order batsmen dismissed. They then spent the next 59 overs taking the remaining four wickets while Warwickshire recovered to 271.

The change in fortunes after lunch could not have been more striking. Three off-side

boundaries from solid back-foot strokes from Neil Smith, the Warwickshire captain, saw Mark Iltott out of the attack. Jamie Grove, his replacement, was promptly clattered for three fours in his first over. In the space of only 44 balls, Smith had reached a half-century that had altered the direction and tempo of the day.

His innings may have sub-



Smith: positive response

sequently stagnated, as he took 60 balls over his next 19 runs before being bowled by Iltott, but with the precedent set, Ashley Giles rarely looked troubled in scoring 30. Tim Munton contributed 24 at No 10, and Graeme Welch weighed in with an unbeaten 48.

It was a far cry from the start when Iltott and Ashley Cowan did much as they pleased with the new ball. Most of the first hour was spent with Warwickshire batter rushing forward at thin air, and sure enough Iltott finished with three wickets and Cowan, Irani and Grayson to two apiece — in Grayson's case the last two of the innings — but not before batting conditions were made to appear a different proposition.

The pitch may have lost much of its life as the day wore on, but Essex were unable to survive the eight overs that they were asked to negotiate before the close, losing Paul Prichard leg-before playing back to Ed Giddins.

Derbyshire lose their grip after Slater sparkles

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

THE first championship match of the season at Canterbury had everything that a Kent supporter could ask for, except a more encouraging performance from their team. There were blue skies, a featureless pitch and, if you could keep out of a keen wind, ideal conditions for watching Kent build a useful score after being sent into bat by Dominic Cork.

But Kent's batting failed miserably, with the notable exception of Matthew Walker, 21lb lighter than he was last season and looking the better for it in every way. After they had been bowled out for 141, they were put to the sword by Michael Slater and bludgeoned by Adrian Rollins.

Prospects for Kent looked bleak when, after a century partnership between these two, Derbyshire passed the Kent total with eight wickets in hand. If ever a team had a match by the scruff of the neck at 5pm on the first day of a four-day match, it was Derbyshire yesterday.

The picture changed somewhat, though, as Dean Headley recovered from a severe mauling at the hands of Slater and Rollins — his first spell of six overs cost him 47 runs — to snap up two quick wickets in a fiery spell that cost 16. Mark Ealham took two more as Derbyshire lost five wickets for 26 runs and Kent had forced their way back into the game.

Slater's sparkling innings had been ended by a sharp catch at mid-off after he had made 65 out of 131 from 77 balls. Bearing in mind that his first championship half-century last season was not until August, he was off to a roaring start. If this sort of form, which brought him eight fours and a couple of sixes, clean strokes, continues, Derbyshire's potential will be greatly enhanced.

Despite their evening collapse, there are, on this evidence, several other reasons why Derbyshire could be up there with the best of them by the end of the season. Their off-the-field troubles seem to be behind them. Perhaps Colin Wells, their new coach, has influenced their general approach in the field. Here it was keen, competent and aggressive.

The quicker bowlers kept the ball up to the bat, giving it a chance to swing. None more so than Kevin Dean. His dismissals of Fulton, Key and Wells were classics of their kind: straight balls leaving the batsmen, followed by the late dipping, inswinging of full length. The three-card trick was never more ably demonstrated. With DeFreitas and Cork in support, Kent were reduced to 70 for seven.

In spite of Walker's fine, restrained innings — which brought him 53 in nearly three hours and helped double the score for the last three wickets, Kent were in trouble. Andrew Symonds was given his county cap in the tea interval, but there was little else for Kent to cheer as Slater and Rollins took them apart.

Derbyshire's century opening stand was achieved at twice the pace of Kent's own milestone, but after Weston was unfortunately run out, it was Derbyshire who were reined in before bad light intervened with four overs left.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP county championship

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE First Innings	
N V Pugh c Law b Cowan.....2	
M A Wright c b Brown.....19	
D I Smith c b Brown.....19	
T L Penney c Hussain b Iltott.....19	
T T Frost c Hussain b Iltott.....11	
D B Brown c Harrison b Iltott.....6	
"M M Smith b Iltott.....6	
A R Giles c Law b Cowan.....18	
G Welch not out.....18	
T A Munton c Smith b Grayson.....28	
E S H Giddins b Grayson.....6	
Extras (b 6, lb 11, nb 4).....11	
Total (9.5 overs).....271	

Gloucestershire v Sussex

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs behind Sussex

SUSSEX First Innings	
R R Montgomerie c Dale b Jones.....28	
M T E Pierce b Jones.....13	
"C J Adams c Maynard b Thomas.....12	
M J D Venning c Cork b Smith.....12	
P A Connor c Evans b Gifford.....8	
R K Rao c Maynard b Thomas.....8	
R S C Martin-Jenkins b Thomas.....0	
"S Humphreys c Thomas b Jones.....4	
R J Kiley c Shaw b Jones.....4	
U B A Rashid b Jones.....43	
M A Robinson not out.....4	
Extras (b 3, lb 3, nb 4).....10	
Total (8.3 overs).....222	

Gloucestershire v Middlesex

BRISTOL (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 246 for seven wickets against Middlesex

GLoucestershire First Innings	
K J Barnett b Fraser.....51	
H C Hendrick c Kettleborough b Cook.....1	
D I Hewson c Slater b Cook.....1	
"M W Alleyne c Ramprakash b Shah.....16	
M G N Windward c Nash b Tufnell.....15	
R I Dawson c Harrison b Tufnell.....18	
J N Shupe b b Fraser.....18	
J R Russell not out.....3	
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 4).....12	
Total (7 wickets, 110 overs).....246	

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

KENT First Innings	
D P Fulton b b Dean.....11	
R W T Iltott b b Dean.....11	
A P Wells b b Dean.....11	
J Walker c Cork b Smith.....53	
S Symonds c Kiley b Dean.....2	
M A Eastham c Kiley b Dean.....2	
"M V Fleming c Cassar b Dean.....2	
S A Marsh b Dean.....10	
D W Headley c Cassar b Cook.....10	
M P Patel b b Cook.....1	
M J Morris not out.....14	
Extras (b 10, lb 4).....14	
Total (8 overs).....141	

Derbyshire v Kent

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

DERBYSHIRE First Innings	
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds.....65	
A S Raine c Key b Headley.....2	
R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P T Prichard c Fulton b Ealham.....2	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Kiley not out.....2	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....19	
Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172	

Derbyshire v Kent

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

DERBYSHIRE First Innings	
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds.....65	
A S Raine c Key b Headley.....2	
R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P T Prichard c Fulton b Ealham.....2	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Kiley not out.....2	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....19	
Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172	

Derbyshire v Kent

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

DERBYSHIRE First Innings	
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds.....65	
A S Raine c Key b Headley.....2	
R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P T Prichard c Fulton b Ealham.....2	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Kiley not out.....2	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....19	
Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172	

Derbyshire v Kent

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

DERBYSHIRE First Innings	
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds.....65	
A S Raine c Key b Headley.....2	
R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P T Prichard c Fulton b Ealham.....2	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Kiley not out.....2	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....19	
Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172	

Derbyshire v Kent

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R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P T Prichard c Fulton b Ealham.....2	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Kiley not out.....2	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....19	
Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172	

Derbyshire v Kent

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

DERBYSHIRE First Innings	
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds.....65	
A S Raine c Key b Headley.....2	
R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P T Prichard c Fulton b Ealham.....2	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Kiley not out.....2	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....19	
Total (6 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172	

Bailey drops anchor to thwart Surrey

By IVO TENNANT

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs behind Northamptonshire

SURREY will repine over not having bowled out Northamptonshire for rather less than 248. Rob Bailey and Paul Taylor, who make for an unlikely pairing, put on 117 in 34 overs for the eighth wicket through batting that was about as contrasting as could be. One came up with gutsy defence and the other hit the ball everywhere. It was highly effective.

Had Surrey bowled a little more accurately, they might well have been batting by early afternoon. There was much life in the pitch, especially for anyone coming in from the Football Ground end.

Northamptonshire were 91 for seven at one stage. Bicknell

bowled Hayden as he drove at a ball of fullish length, and had Loye held at mid-wicket, mistiming a pull. Warren was run out and, when Butcher brought himself on, he caught and bowled Penberthy and then had Swann caught driving at an away swinger.

Bailey, though, remains an unflinching competitor and, after taking ten overs to get off the mark, held the innings together. He and Taylor, whose 71 was not far off the best score of his career, thoroughly irked their opponents.

By the time Bailey was leg-before to Bicknell for 75, he was only 27 runs short of 20,000 in first-class cricket. He frustrated Tudor to the extent that he was spoken to for short-pitched bowling. Surrey, although they lost Ward to a vicious ball from Malcolm, and Shahid, retired hurt, ended the day more content.

Patience pays for Alleyne

By GEOFFREY DEAN

BRISTOL (first day of four: Middlesex won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 246 for seven wickets against Middlesex

THE smart new Jessop Stand at Nevill Road glimmered in the sunshine and was perhaps the brightest adornment on a day that was, by necessity, an attritional one because of a slow, flat pitch devoid of much bounce and in use for the first time for a first-class match.

The plan had been to use another pitch for Bristol's first match of the season. But it proved too wet, and this one, due to have been played on in a second-team match last week, was appreciably drier.


Middlesex would have expected much more assistance than they received. Despite the pitch's green hue, hardly a ball seemed before lunch. Nor was there any swing to speak of for Middlesex's promising young outswinger bowler, Simon Cook, making his debut at the age of 22.

Cook was on the staff last year but because of persistent shin soreness, spent much of his time

Same space, worlds apart

John Higgins held an 11-5 advantage over Stephen Lee, even though his standard of play dipped considerably from that which transported him to an 8-0 lead on Tuesday. The solitary highlight was a 124 break, his fifth century of the championship.

Lying in wait for the titleholder is Mark Williams, who, like O'Sullivan, endured some anxious stretches before converting an 11-5 over-night lead into a 13-9 win over Ken Doherty, the 1997 champion and runner-up last year.

 **LINKS**

WEBSITE: www.embassy-snooker.com
— official tournament site

TELEVISION: BBC1, 2.30pm. BBC2,
3.30, 6.45, 9.50pm

designed by his father. After coaxing Jay Kay to talk about his sex life he is off for lunch with the Mercedes sports car-driving supermodel Caprice. Then follows banter with singer Richard Fairbrass of Right Said Fred fame, who is not too sexy to drive a Porsche, and two of Britain's star sprinters, who favour the MGF and the Ford Puma.

Dilbert
Sat. One, 8.30pm

Said to be the most popular comic strip in the world, reaching 150 million readers daily, with spin-off bestsellers and its own World Wide Web Site (which attracts 4 million visits monthly), the cartoon by Scott Adams has now become an animated series which will surely emulate the success of *The Simpsons* and *South Park*. In fact, since Dilbert, though sophistically cynical about the world, is never as "sick" as *South Park*, it has much broader appeal. It is funny, literate, beautifully observed. For those who haven't seen the strip, it features nerdy Dilbert, an engineer for The company, his dog Dogbert (much smarter than he is), Scrabble-mad mother, Dilbert's colleagues Wally, Alice and Lou Howard, and *The Beany Bunch!* Rose Town, Patrick

is a foul if a vaulter deliberately, with his hands or fingers, tries to replace a bar about to fall from the supports.

Galfione admitted that he had touched the bar, but said that he had not done it deliberately. The judges agreed. "I feel sorry for Jeff," Galfione said. "The law is stupid, but the law is the law."

In the wake of the row, the International Amateur Athletic Federation is recommending that the rule be changed to state that any vaulter who places a hand on the bar will be disqualified, irrespective of whether they seem to be replacing it or not.

A lot of vaulters think that this is madness. Even Hartwig, the runner-up in Japan, has got away with handling the bar in the past. "Once, when I was young, the bar flew off and whacked me on the chest," he said. "So I think it's a natural reflex to put your arm out to block the bar."

For free-spirited vaulters, the no-hands rule stinks. "Should vaulters place their hands behind their backs or maybe wave to the crowd in-



A black and white photograph showing a person in mid-air, performing a vault over a high horizontal bar. The bar is supported by a single vertical pole. The person is in a crouched position, having just cleared the bar. The background is a dark, textured landscape, possibly a field or forest. The image is framed by a thick black border.

To most spectators, the thought of sprinting down a runway before trying to plant a 17ft pole into a small hole to catapult skywards is terrifying. It is easy enough to identify with other events — such as running, jumping, throwing and swimming — but pole vaulting is unfathomable.

These daredevils who fly without wings are a rare breed. The only British

cool and skilled enough in the mid-vault to reach out and grab a trembling crossbar is a breathtakingly athletic feat. Far from being penalised for this, they should be applauded. When you are hanging 20ft in the air and attempting the impossible, you need all the helping hands you can get.

JOHN BRYANT

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 46
ORCHIL.
(b) A red or violet dye prepared from certain lichens, especially *Rocella tinctoria*.
PLICHTANKER
(a) The main anchor of a ship. From the Low German and then the Dutch *plechtanker* the principal or chief anchor that holds a ship.
POPVISIT
(a) A short, hasty, or unannounced visit in which one pops in.
NOUTHETICAL
(b) Monitory, warning. From the ancient Greek.

**SOLUTION TO
WINNING MOVE**
1 Rxg7! Kxg7 2 Rg3+ Kh7 (2...
Kh8 3 Nxf7+) 3 Qc2+ and the
black queen is lost.

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: 2.4-84.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 805. CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland Barry O'Keefe

2.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis Ron Berglas
reads part nine of P.F. Kluge's novel about three
Elvis impersonators working in the Philippines
2.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

From the edge of the New World,
a new, dry, spicy full-bodied red.

JOHN BRYANT

هكذا من الأصل

And what's with that title (all lower case, note, which shows that Hale and Pace have done their homework and are therefore now as Web-smart as, say, the average nine-year-old)? Gareth was wondering that, too. "So it's not," said Gareth mockingly to Norman, hoping to draw the sting by getting in before us, "actually a vain attempt by two fat, middle-aged comedian blokes to look vaguely trendy and computer-aware?" But if not that, then what was it? Maybe Hale and

The show itself was a ragbag of sweepings from those ideas rejected by other variety shows. In a pointless quiz, the competitors - Tony Blackburn, the Eurovision singer Kattina Leskanich, and the DJ Jonathan Coleman (the only performing presence in the show)

The "comedy" duo thought it would be amusing to go to Scotland to see just how stingy the Scots are by entering shops in Perth and demanding that they be given things free. This left the shopkeepers with the choice of either looking tight-fisted, or of being intimidated by two "comedians" and their film crew who — uninvited — were recording the shopkeepers' reactions for the BBC. This seg-

As for the celebrity *Stars in their Eyes* in which Anthrax "it's time for another image change" Turner confessed (only jokingly) to being an egomaniac, before regaling us in the guise of Shane MacGowan, the thought-foremost in your mind was: what advises this woman on her PR?

Compared with this, listening to Mark Urban tell us on *Leviathan* (BBC2) that the Good Friday agreement is not all that dissimilar to the Sunningdale agreement which attempted power-sharing in North-

that after all these years nobody had come up with any new ideas — really was funny. Or else it was depressing. I forget which. Sometimes the two are very similar.

Jamie Oliver, BBC's *Fakeaway Chef*, is moving closer to TV sainthood. Last week he cooked dinner for his sister's hen night. This week he babysat his young cousins while preparing ravioli and a praline *semi freddo* for their parents' anniversary. It's a march for a new TV formula that has paid off: the chatting to an unseen interviewer, the frantic hand-held camera; the handsome, unfussy, 30-year-old chef whose descriptive vocabulary runs along like pukkah, wobbly, bubbly, sticky, gooey, funky; the cooking for photogenic relatives. It could all so easily have gone wrong. Oliver clearly has a bright television future, just so long as he resists the temptation to make guest appearances on Hale

CHANNEL 1

Dam 5 News and Sport (5265813)
Worldwide (I) (T) (2295829)
Wiltshirecast (2038287)
Muppet Babies; 5 News (4334900)
Havaleezoo (I) (8114233)
Deppledown Farm (I) (8113504)
The Roseanne Show (I) (5627542)
Russell Grant's Postcards (8235875)
The Bold and the Beautiful Katie
and the Family (I) (8061894)
Sunset Beach Cole tries to keep Annie
 from running away (I) (4527455)
Leeza (3823230)
5 News at Noon (I) (8117320)
Porn Family Affairs Pam thinks she is
 going mad (I) (T); 5 News Update
 (8580879)
The Oprah Winfrey Show Studio
 debate on everyday issues (1458591)
Heart of the Matter About a young couple
 who are free to live their city during an
 intense heatwave. With Ben Murphy,
 Bonnie Bedelia, Lew Ayres and David
 Huddleston. Directed by Jerry Jameson;
 5 News Update (28234788)
The Iron Mistress (1952) Western
 action based on the life and loves of
 Dr. Bruce A. Blom and stars J. Donnell
 and John Davidson

Golden Douglas (7409788)
5 News (T) (59512798)
Russell Grant's Postcards A traveller's guide to Jamaica (T) (59526981)
100 Per Cent (5412184)
5 News; Weather (T) (5419097)
Family Affairs Cive attempts suicide (T) 5 News Update (5400349)
The Papeal Chart Music by TQ, Westlife and De'e'ah, who performs her new single *El Paraisito Rico* (2429233)
Wild In The USA insight into the lives of the red-tailed hawk and the prairie falcon. Story comes from the heart of territory (T) 5 News Update (5469923)
CRUISE Stars and Cars Motor and (T) (545156)
 (fastly show, presented by **Henny Cote** (176) (T) (2438981)
Viva España! The lap dancers divulge their tactics for dissuading enthusiastic punters, while Jim Bunyon decides to cheer himself up with a visit to Bunyol's tomato festival. Over at Lineker's Bar, the customers gear up to perform their own version of *The Full Monty*, 5 News Update (2427438)
Moment of Truth: Cradle of Conspiracy (TVM 1994) A teenager alarms her parents by embarking on a dangerous relationship with a man involved in the blackmarket baby business — and then announces that she is pregnant. Starring Des Wallace and David McKeown, Kurt Deutsch and Carmen Argenteziano. Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont; 5 News Update (4955245)
Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment (5511146)
Red Shoe Diaries Tales of erotica from the streets of Rio (1541875)
Ice Hockey NHL Richard Oxford and **Go** Martin present the Conference quarter-finals (0089255) — **VIDEO** Release
1994 European Motorsport (4072158)
100 Per Cent (r1) (5208363)

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HISTORY

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